

# Lower Baker Dam Leakage Investigations



**Jim Sammet, PE**  
**Lower Baker Dam Capital Program Manager**

# Outline

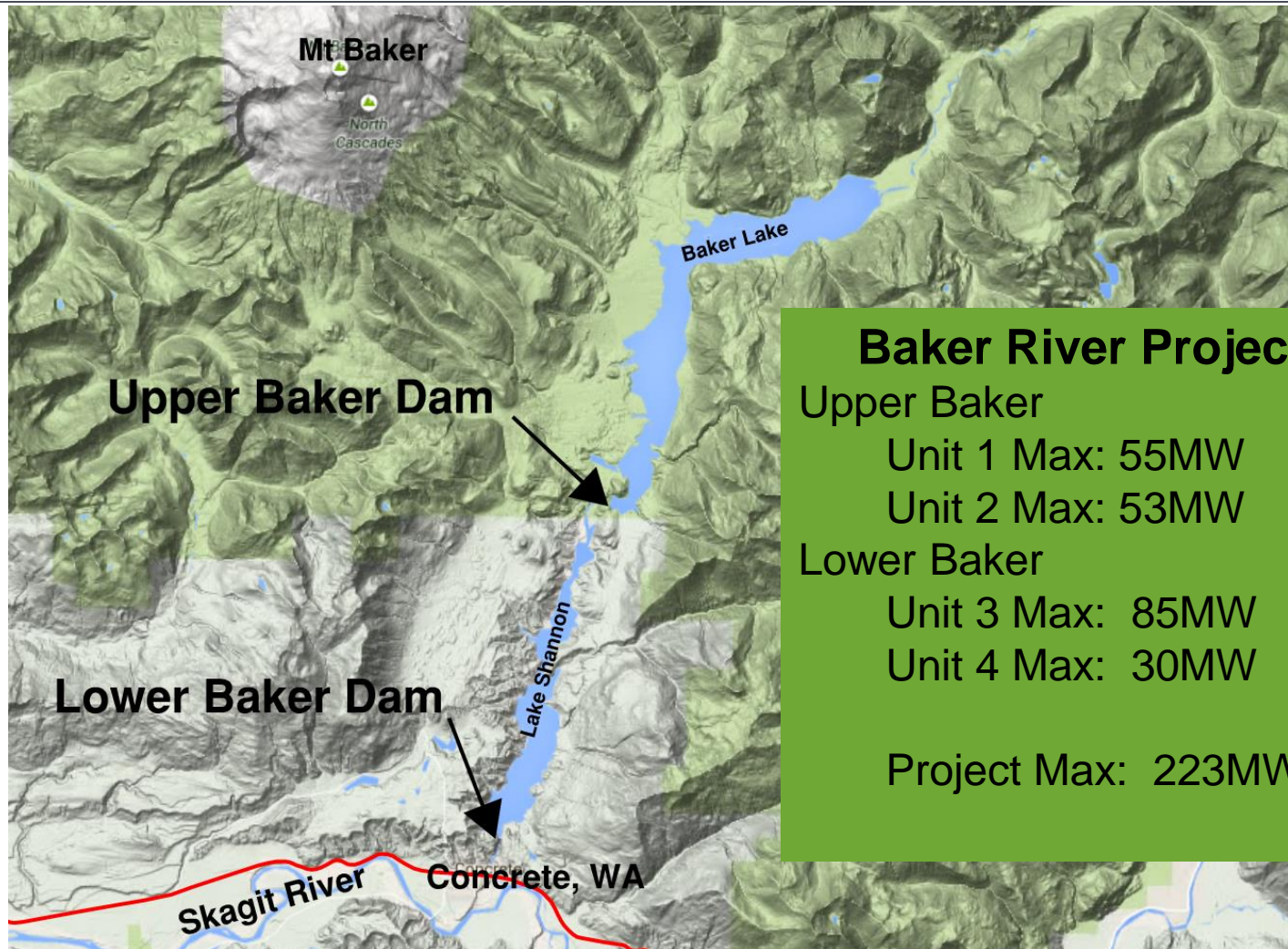
- Overview of Lower Baker
- History
- Leakage Measurement
- 2010, 2012, Leakage Investigations
- Downlooker Instrumentation
- 2014 Leakage Investigations
- Geologic Model
- 2015 Geotechnical Investigations



# Baker River Hydro Project Location



# Baker River Hydro Project



## Baker River Project

### Upper Baker

Unit 1 Max: 55MW

Unit 2 Max: 53MW

### Lower Baker

Unit 3 Max: 85MW

Unit 4 Max: 30MW

Project Max: 223MW



# Lower Baker Dam Overview

---

- Concrete Thick Arch Dam
- Base is 160 ft. thick.
- Height = 285 ft.
- Span = 405 ft.
- Spillway Section = 275 ft.



# Lower Baker Dam Overview

---



- Length = 7 miles.
- Area = 2,300 acres
- Drainage Area = 300 sq. mi
- Total Storage is 132,000 ac-ft with active storage of over 29,000 ac-ft.
- Named for W.D. Shannon, Chief Engineer for original dam construction

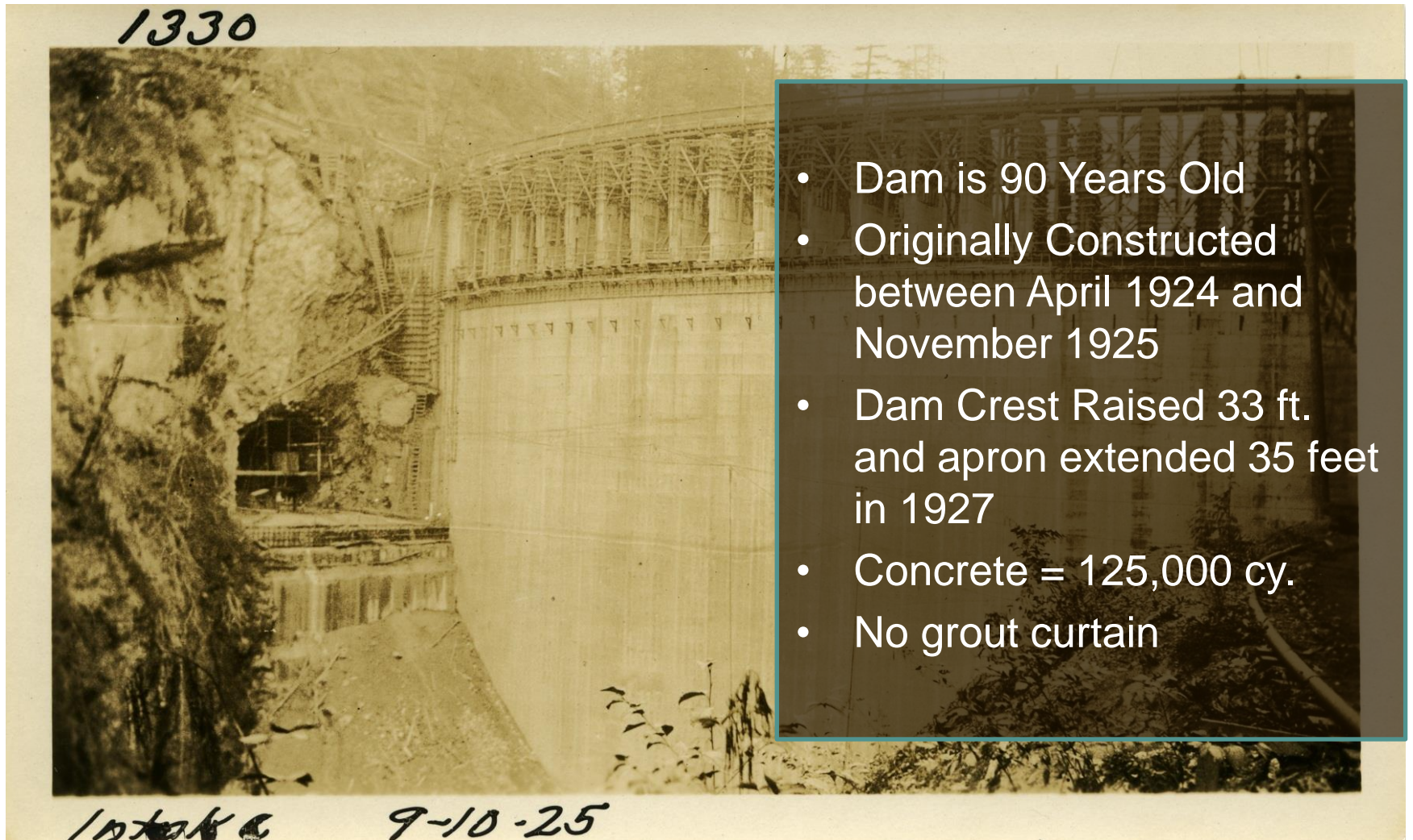


# Lower Baker Dam Overview



- 23 operating gates
- 13 gates operated by 3 types of automated hoist operators
- 10 gates operated manually with a gate car
- Separate intake structure with trash racks and wheel head gates
- 65 ft. drawdown by generation or bypass valve
- No low level outlet

# Lower Baker Dam History





# Lower Baker Dam History

1574

Leakage appeared in the down-stream abutments immediately upon filling Lake Shannon

Grouting of abutments have been conducted in 1933, 1946, 1959-1961 and 1982-1983



*Downstream Face of Dam 12-6-25*

# Lower Baker Dam History

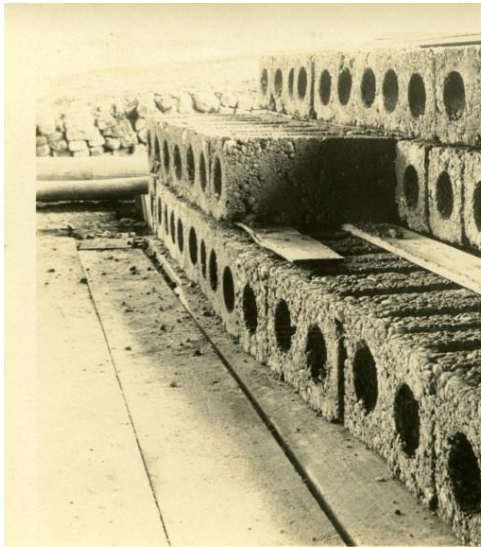
---



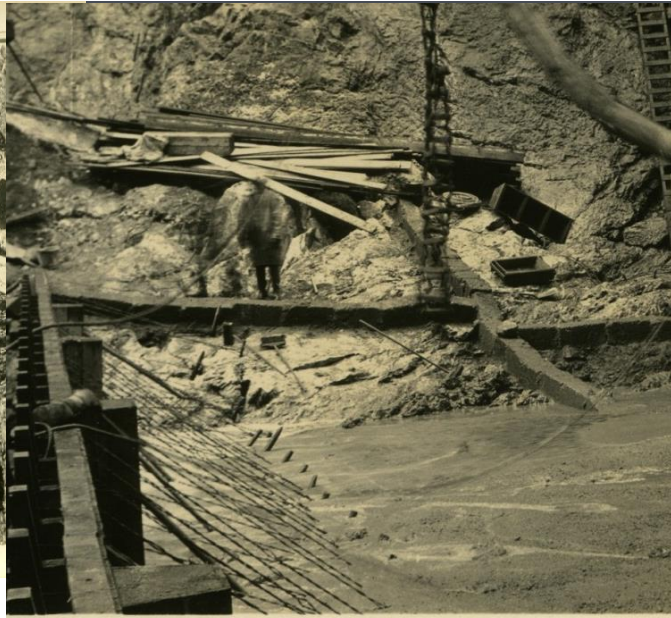
- In 1965 the original powerhouse was destroyed by a landslide.
- Original record drawings stored in powerhouse were also destroyed.
- The result is we know little about the design and construction of the dam



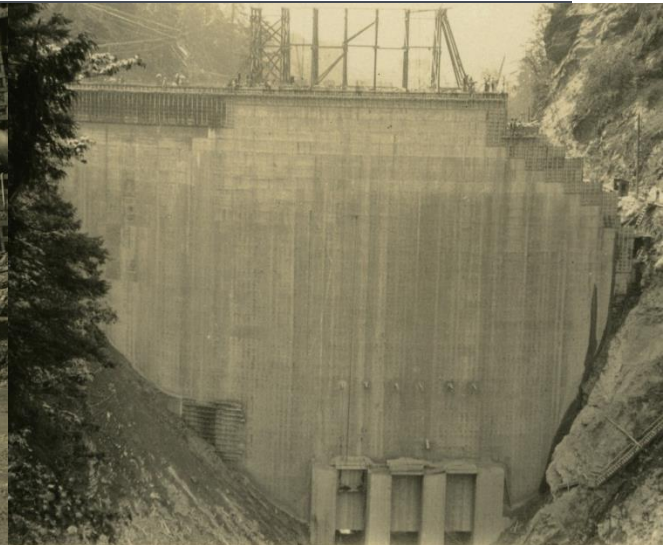
# Lower Baker Dam History



#45. Sept 9, 1924



3-2-25.



face of Dam 8-3-25

## Through some luck;

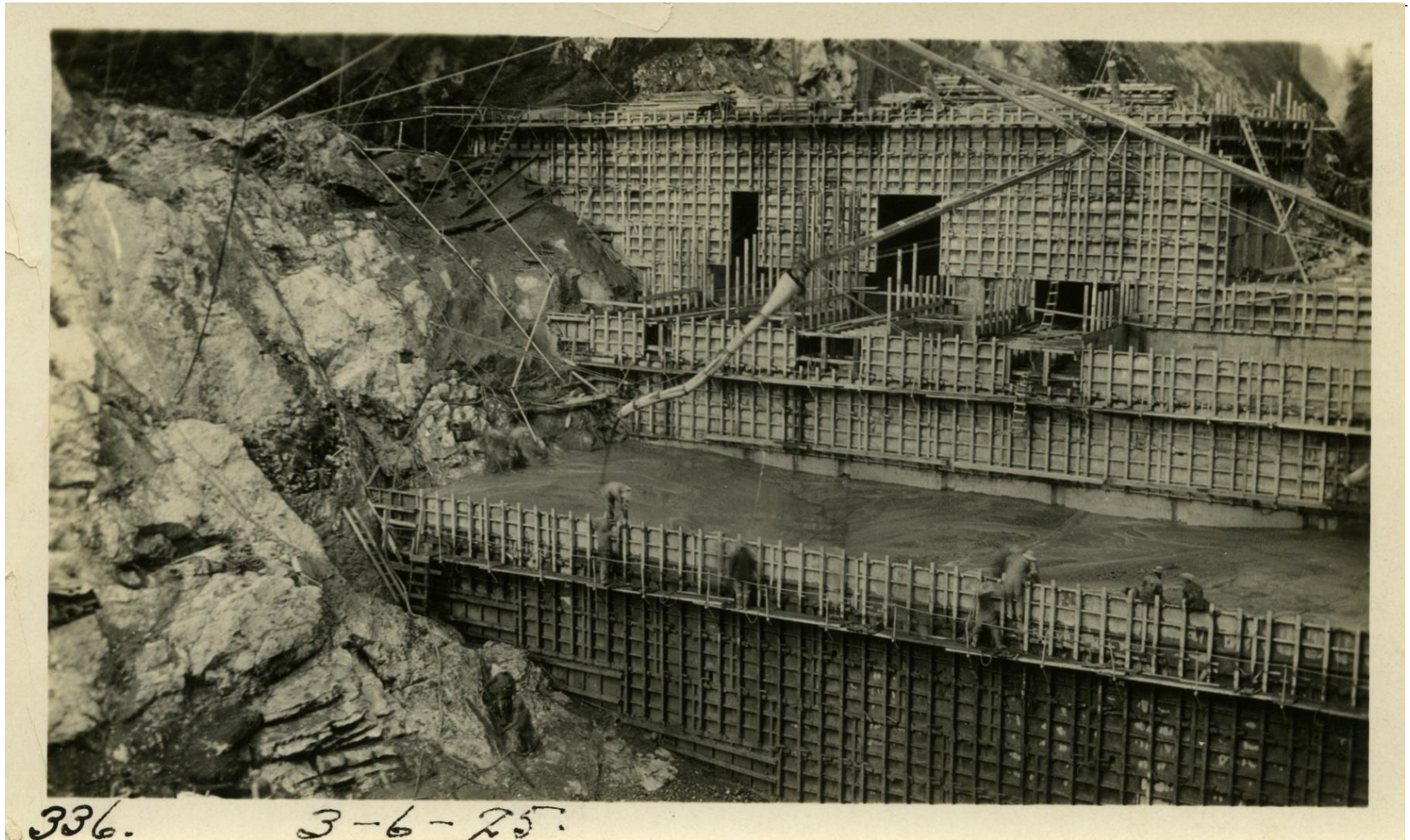
- PSE has obtained approximately 1500 high quality photographs taken during the original construction of the dam.

# Lower Baker Dam History





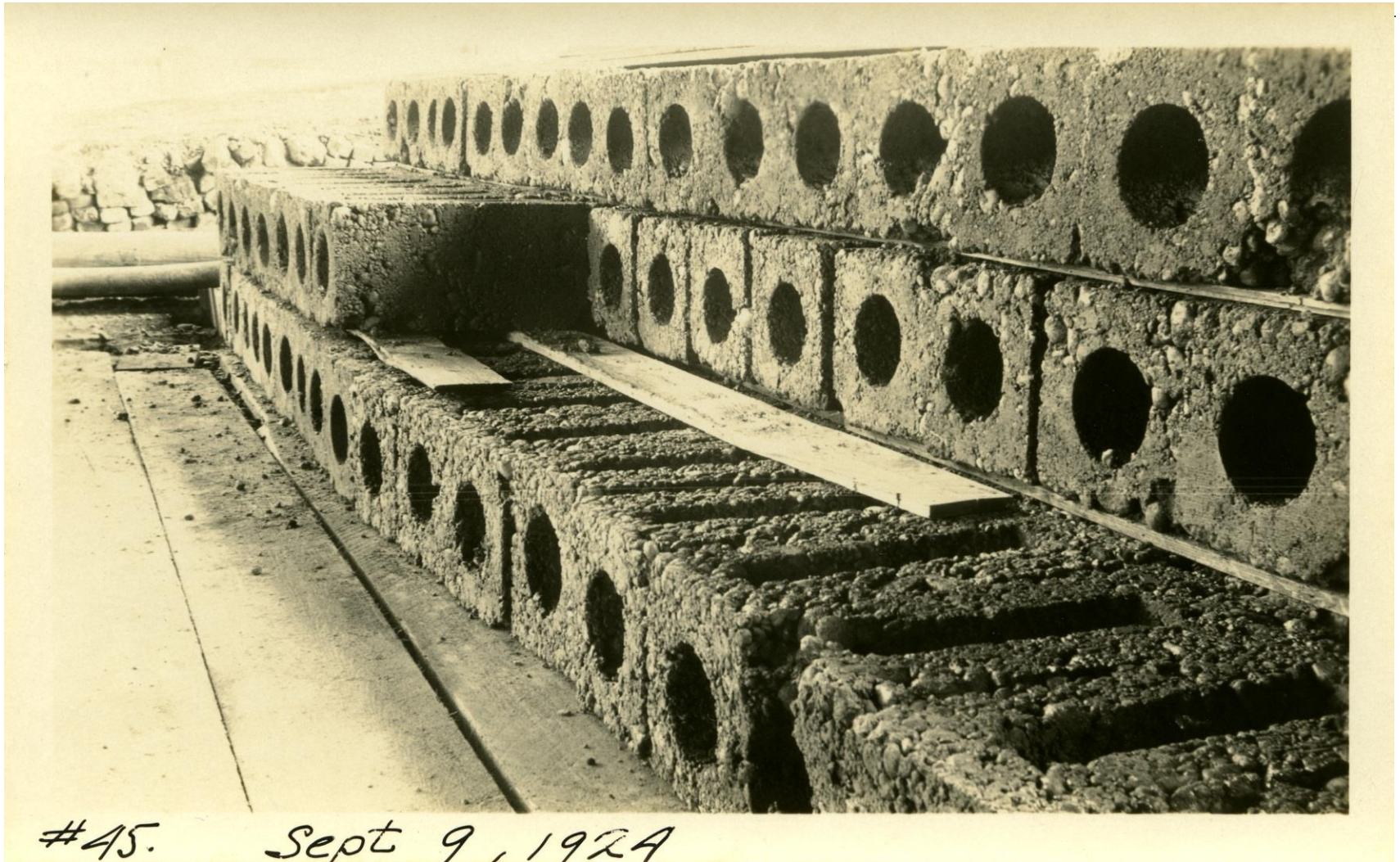
# Lower Baker Dam History



Construction Sequence of Concrete lifts and blocks

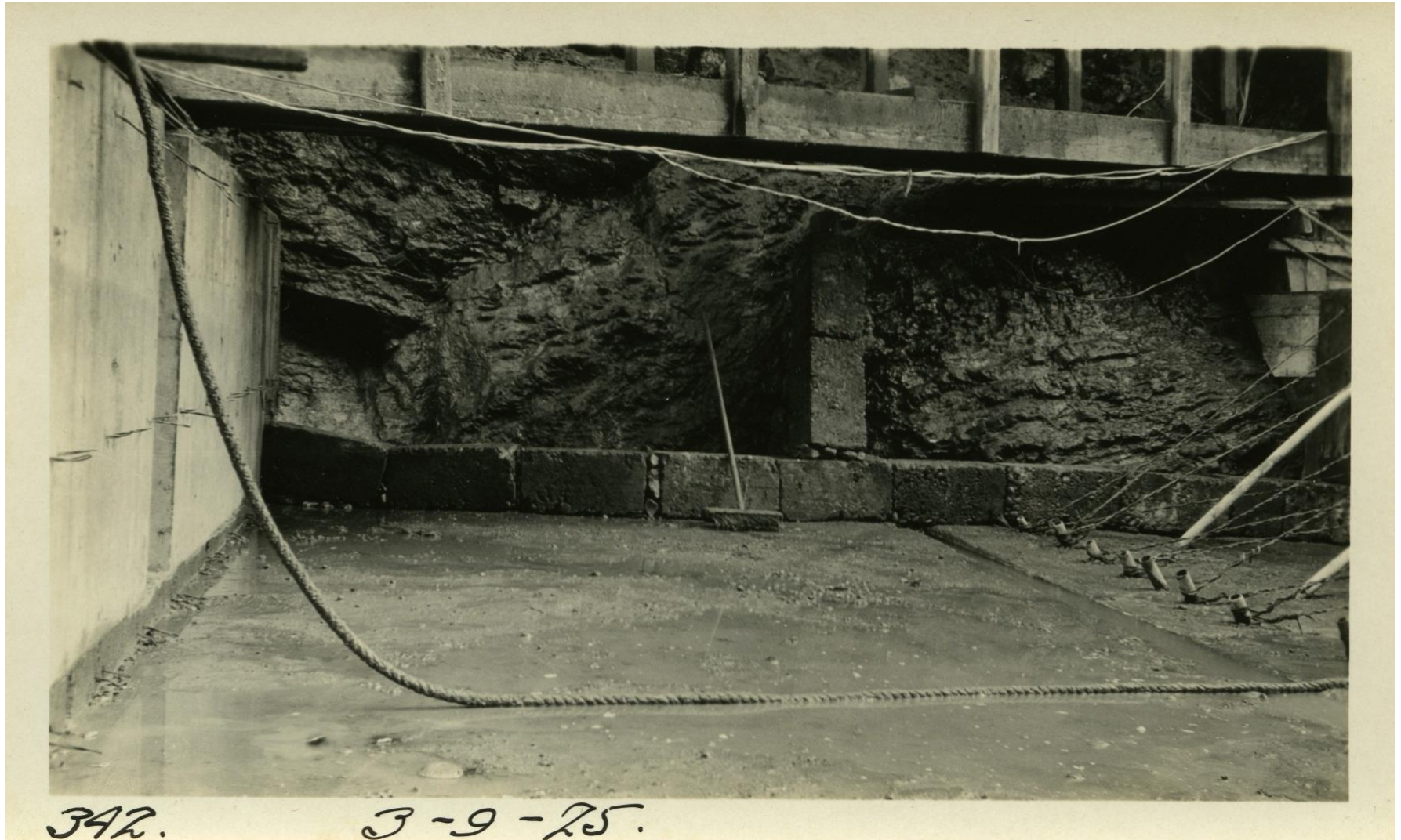


# Lower Baker Dam History



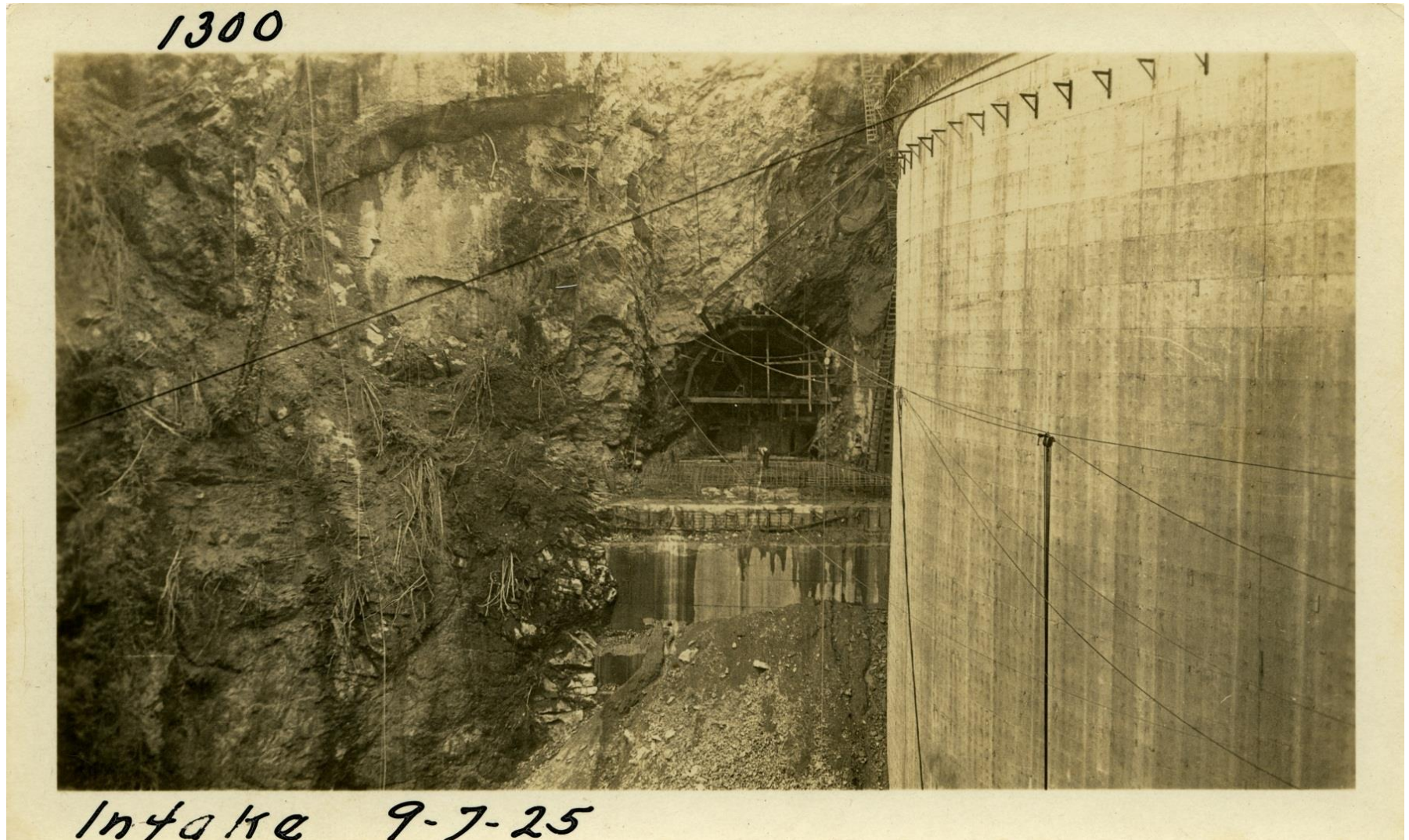


# Lower Baker Dam History



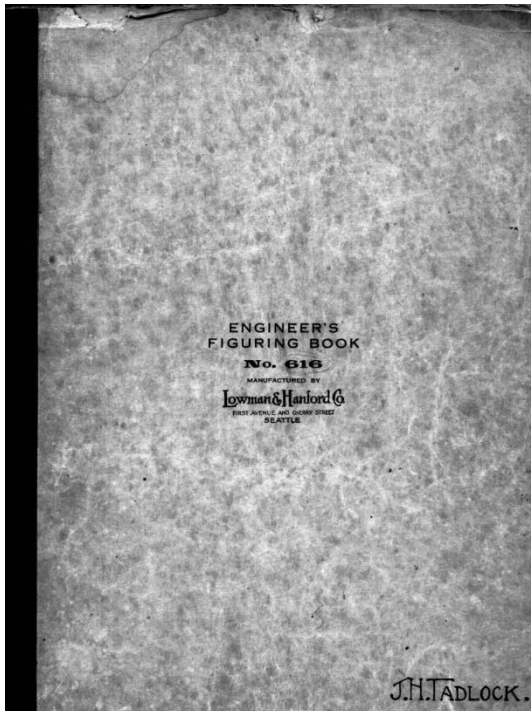


# Lower Baker Dam History





# Lower Baker Dam History



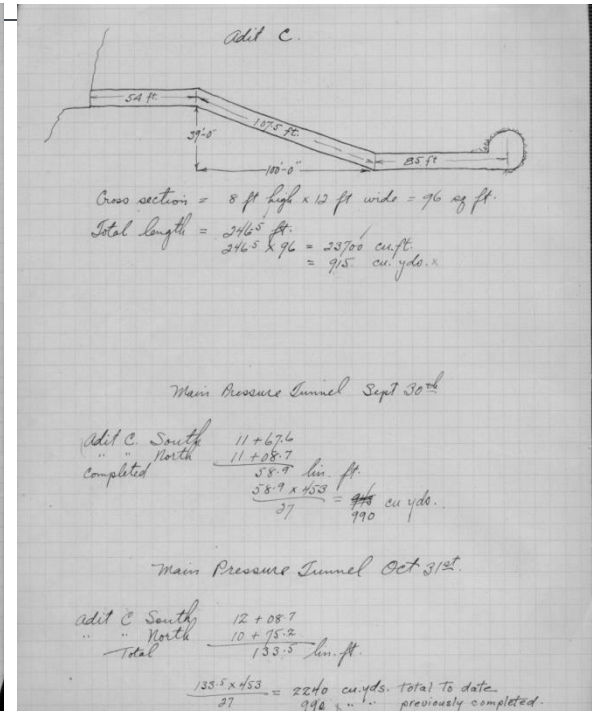
*Dam Concrete for period Mar 7<sup>th</sup> to Mar 31<sup>st</sup> inc.*  
13307 cu yds poured to date.

Run <sup>no</sup>	Cement " x 1"	Cu yds.	Batches	520 Forms	Quilt Forms
32 3/4	3066.5	593	410	396	
33	2901	612	677	486	
34	2077	625	609	562	
35	1281	254	253	387	500
36	2571	685	715	558	
37	1326	278	262	324	500
38	2576	716	712	570	
39	591	181	115	254	500
40	2852	533	560	431	988
41	1022	160	198	258	500
42	2872	565	568	447	988
43	1242	206	242	283	888
44	1522	289	364	213	1131
45	1422	309	384	450	90
46	1534	326	364	235	1150
47	1864	376	443	270	1901
48	2092	475	510	453	142
49	3254	565	664		440
50	2958	579	592		432
51	3168	603	631	443	
52	2916	534	580	410	180
53	3909	885	935	200	1000
54	3125	570	625	420	540
55	3470	760	811	918	204
56	3847	763	763		1110
57	3492	760	692	1000	300
58	3552	754	764		1182
59 3/4	3450	760	760	1000	380
		73011	14644	10938	15243

10,307  
14,644  
24,951

73,011 bags cement.  
14,644 cu yds. poured.

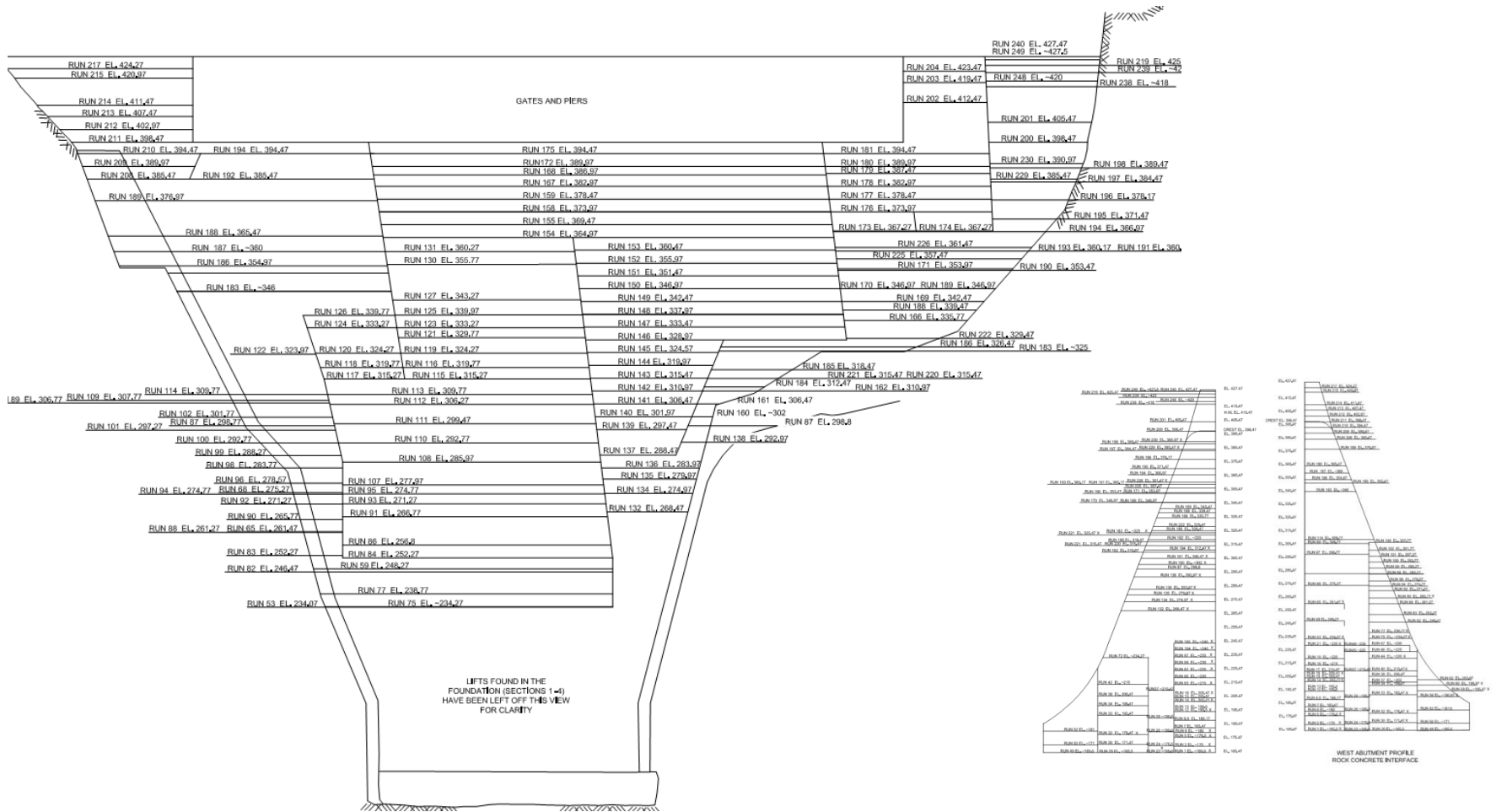
10938  
15243  
26181 sq ft total  
22'5" from stopped (over)



## “Engineers Figuring Book” from construction;

- Provides a dated record of all the concrete pours
- Correlated dated on photographs to concrete pour dates
- Determined construction sequencing of the dam

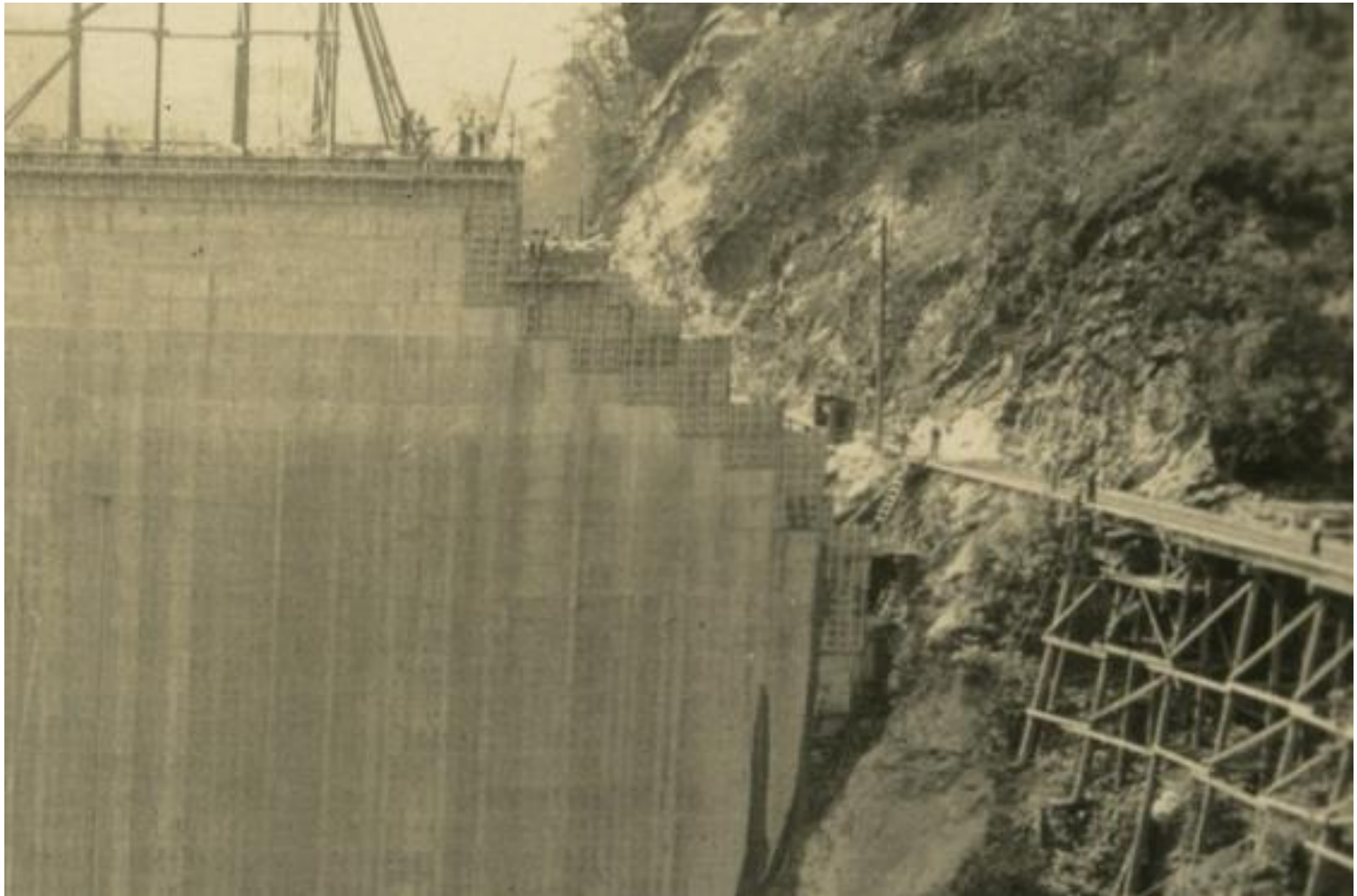
# Lower Baker Dam History





# Lower Baker Dam History

---



# Lower Baker Dam Leakage Measurement



- Documentation on how leakage was measured in the past is not good.
- Past grouting efforts seemed to be triggered when the leakage rate was determined to be 100 – 150 cfs
- How much does the dam leak today?



# Leakage Measurement



Left Abutment  
1933 – 110cfs



Left Abutment  
1961 – 55cfs

# Leakage Measurement

---



Right Abutment  
1982 – 140cfs



Right Abutment  
2012 - 132 cfs



# Leakage Measurement

- **2007-2012 Acoustic Doppler Current Profiling**
- Technology uses acoustic beams along a transect to estimate velocities within the water column
- Accuracy Issues – results varied widely in a given year but seem to indicate an increase



# Leakage Measurement

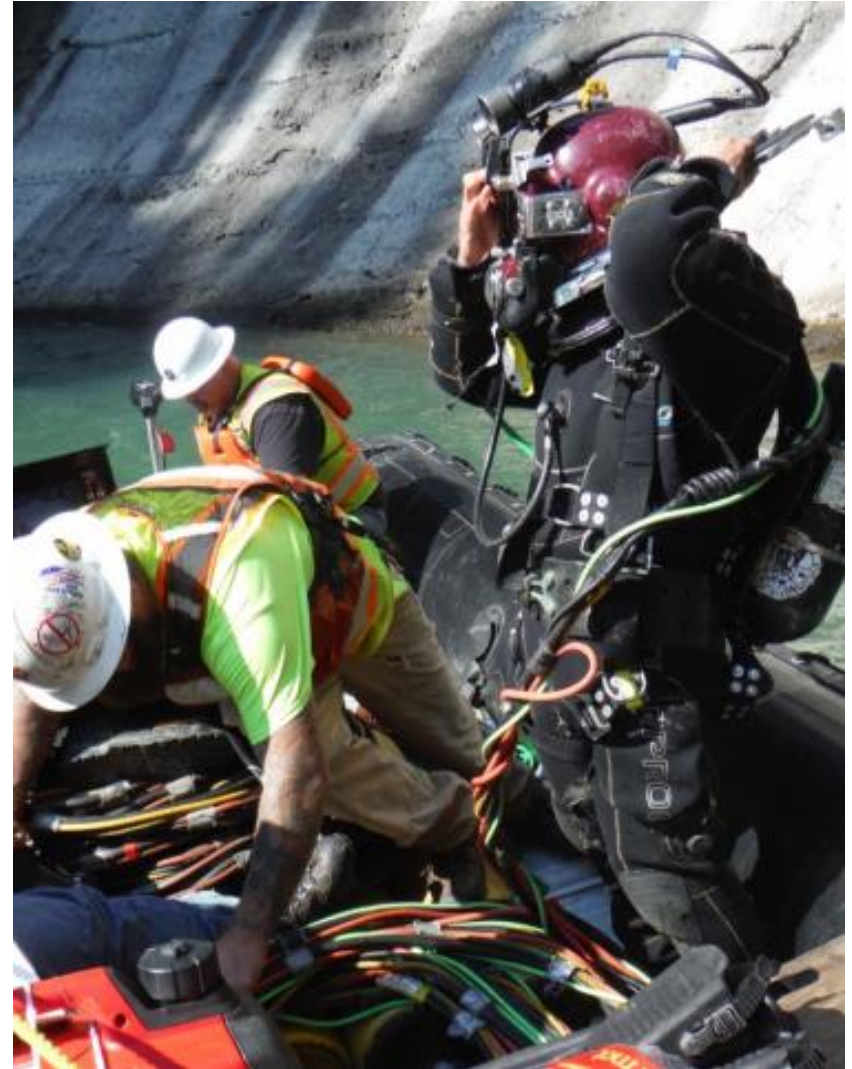
---

<b><u>Flow</u></b> <b><u>(cfs)</u></b>	<b>T-3</b>	<b>T-6</b>
2012	98	132
2010	78	95
2007	78	NA



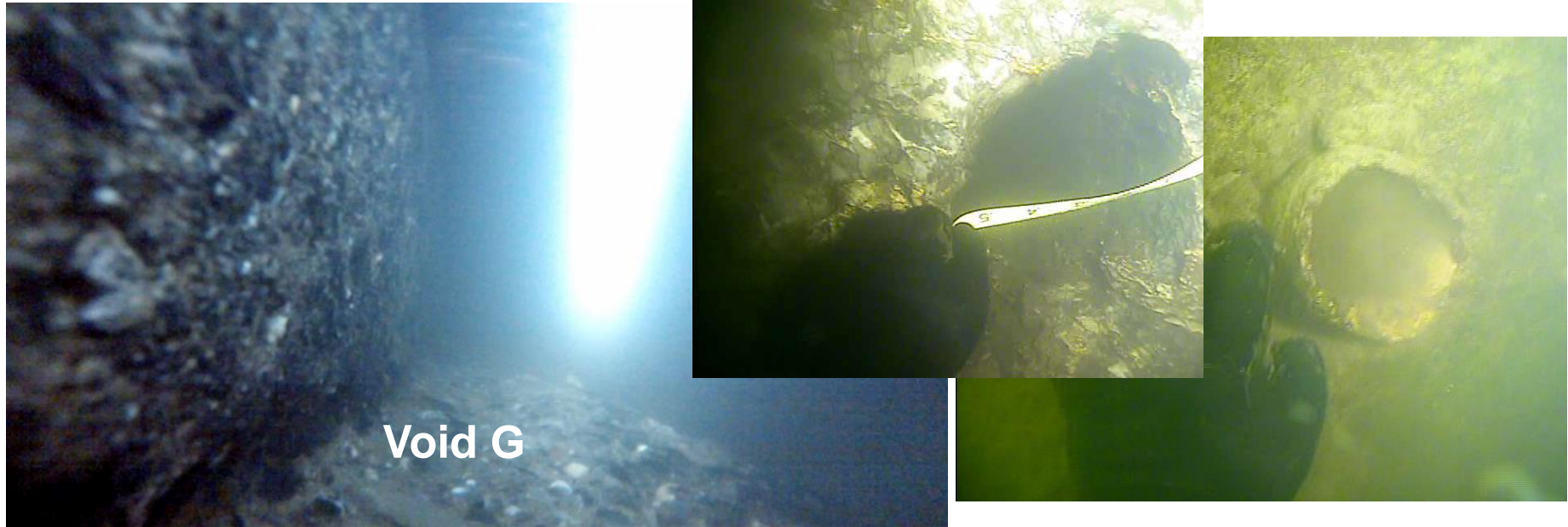
# Leakage Measurement – Toe Dive Inspections

- Toe Dive inspection of the dam apron every 2 years
- Asses condition of dam apron
- Includes monitoring of several “voids” in the apron by inspections
- Mapped voids could be from scour, formed drain outlets, erosion in concrete?



# Leakage Measurement – Toe Dive Inspections

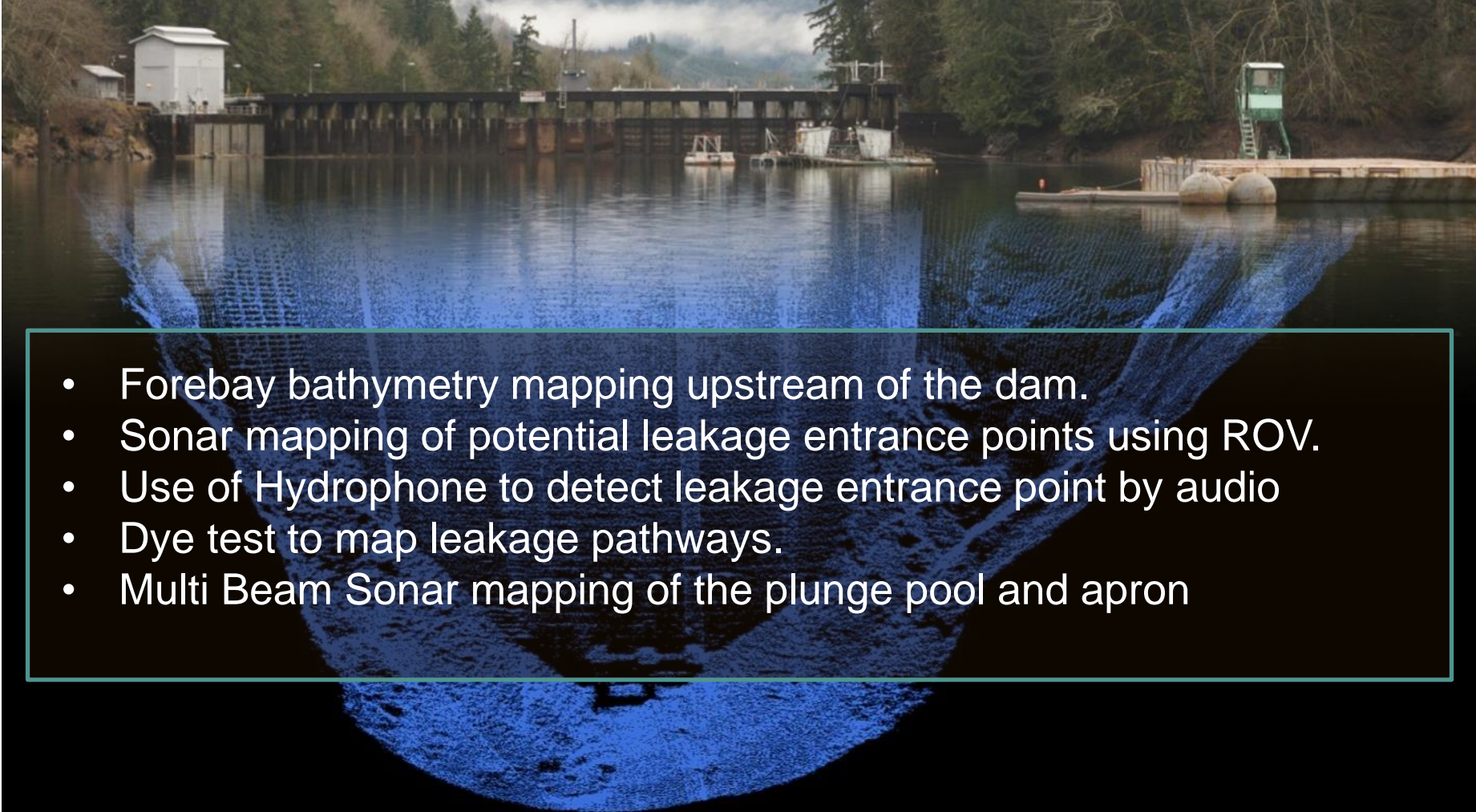
---



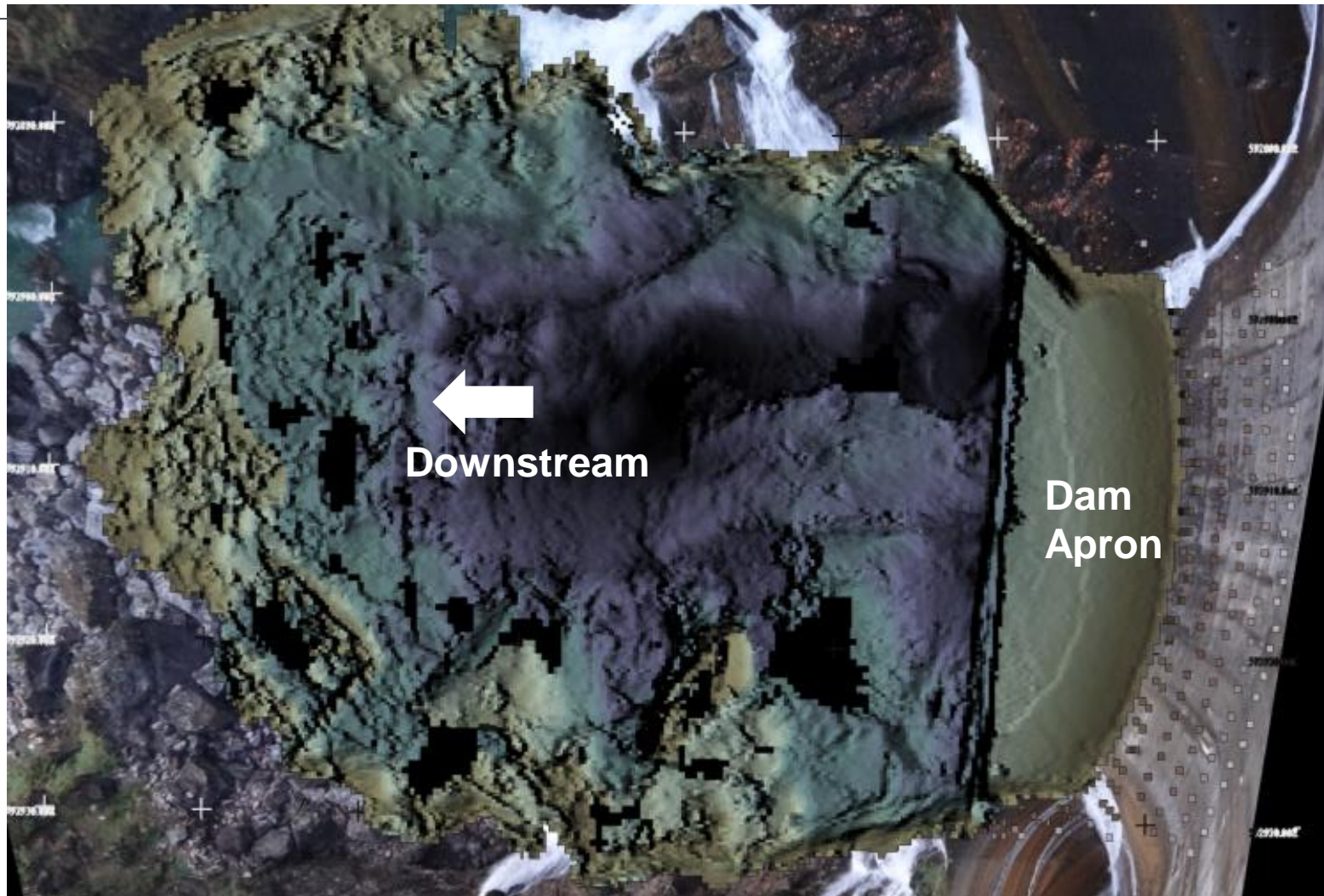
- Toe dive in 2010 showed high velocity flow from Void G located near the east end of the Apron.
- Observations prompted additional leakage investigations to better understand leakage and drainage characteristics of the dam site.



# 2010 Leakage Investigations

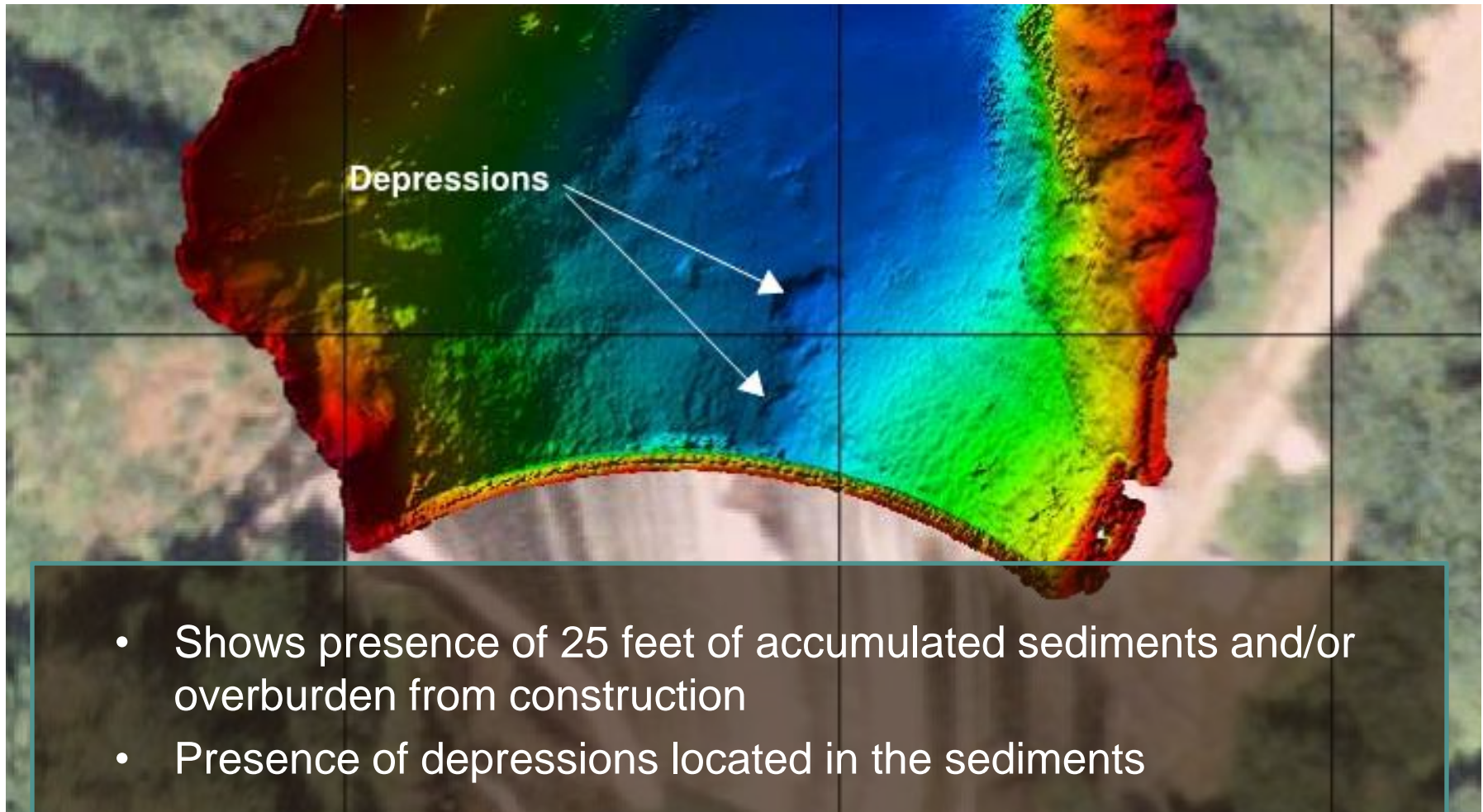
- 
- Forebay bathymetry mapping upstream of the dam.
  - Sonar mapping of potential leakage entrance points using ROV.
  - Use of Hydrophone to detect leakage entrance point by audio
  - Dye test to map leakage pathways.
  - Multi Beam Sonar mapping of the plunge pool and apron

## 2010 Leakage Investigations – Plunge Pool Bathymetry





# 2010 Leakage Investigations – Forebay Bathymetry

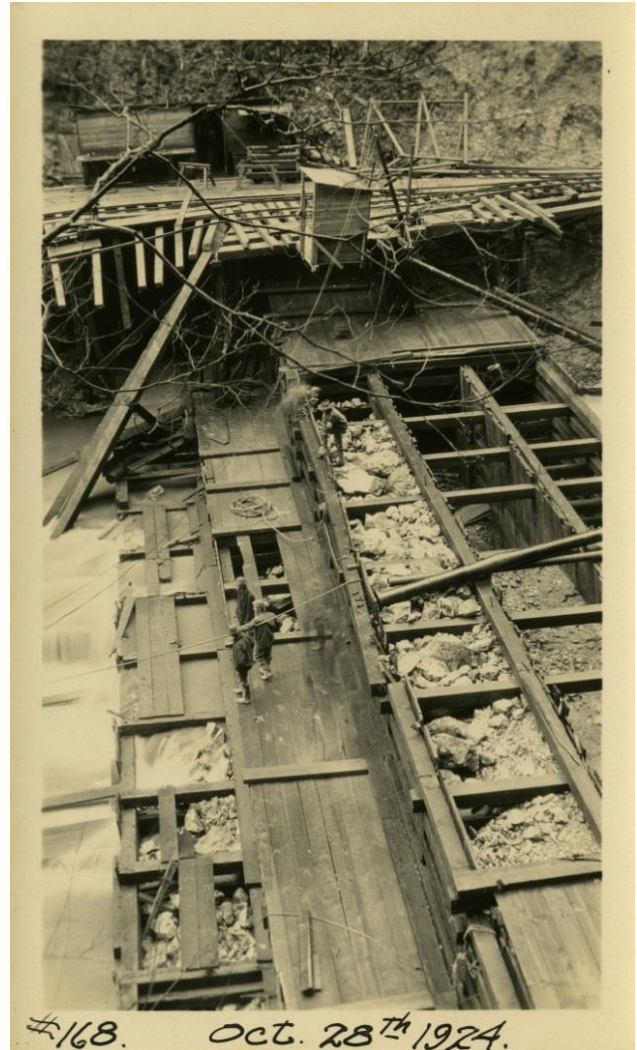




# 2010 Leakage Investigations – Forebay Bathymetry

Forebay Sediments  
Overburden from  
intake tunnel  
excavation

Old diversion  
cofferdam remnants





# 2012 Leakage Investigations



## Extensive Investigations

- Abutment Leakage
- Foundation erosion
- Sub-channel pathways

# 2012 Leakage Investigations

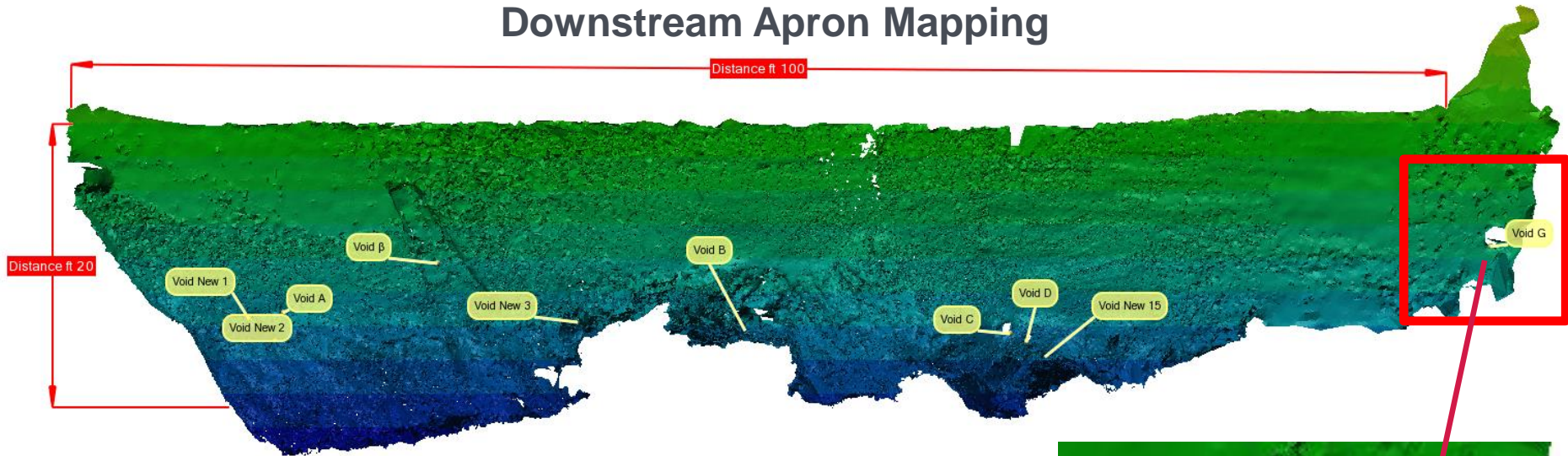
- High-Resolution Apron Mapping
- Diver Apron Inspection
- Water Sampling & Testing
- Above-Water Mapping
- Flow Measurements
- Dye Study
- Geophysical Survey
- Video Survey





# 2012 Leakage Investigations

## Downstream Apron Mapping



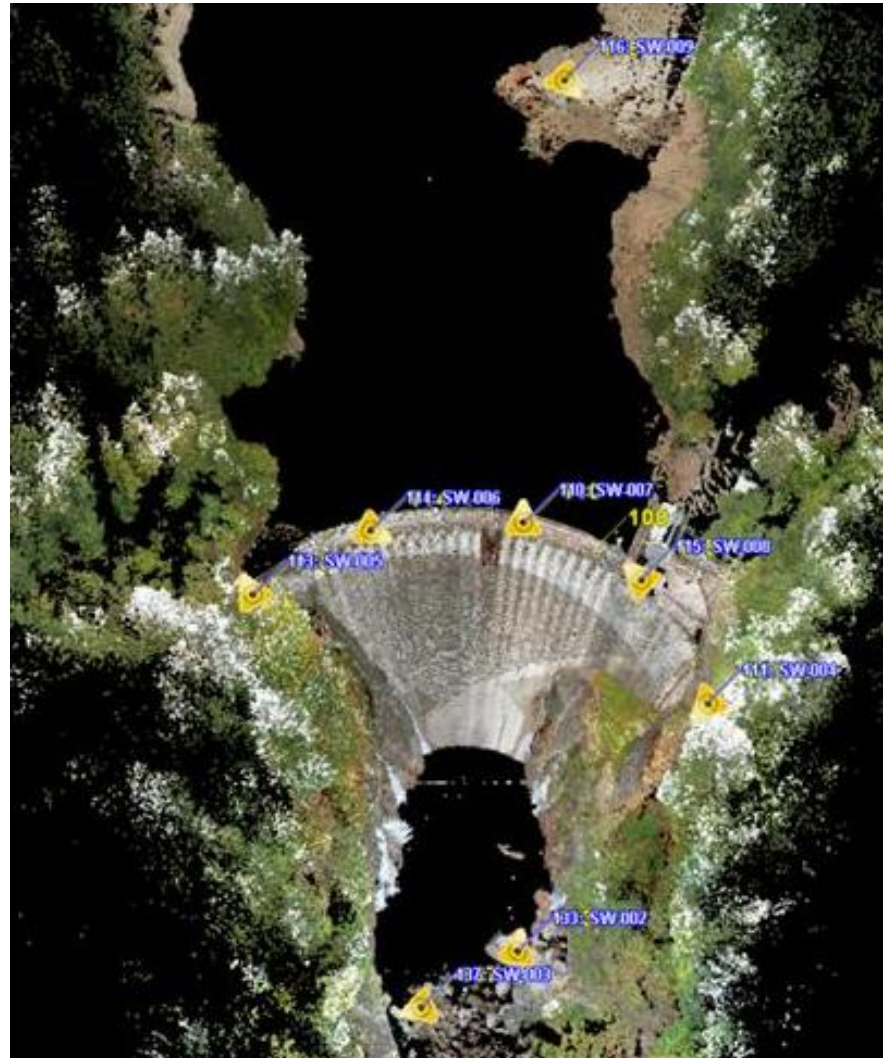
- Blu-Vu Scan of D.S. apron
- Able to map known voids
- Monitor changes in future scans



# 2012 Leakage Investigations

## High Resolution Terrestrial Survey

- 3D laser scan of above water features
- Forebay
- Dam
- D.S. face
- Abutments & plunge pool

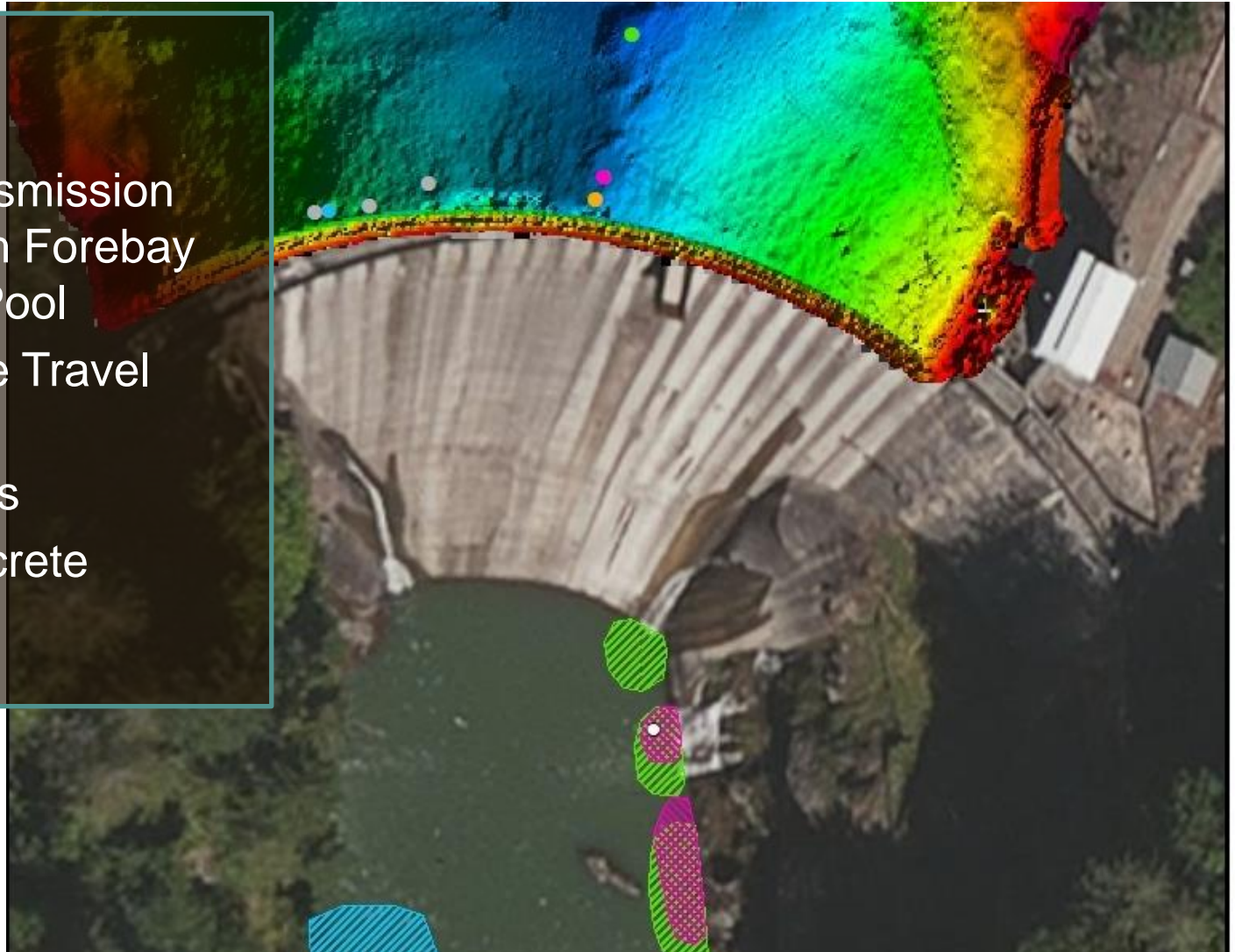




# 2012 Leakage Investigations

## Dye Study

- Rapid Transmission Times From Forebay to Plunge Pool
- 3-10 Minute Travel Time
- 0.4 – 1.4 fps
- Shows Discrete Pathways



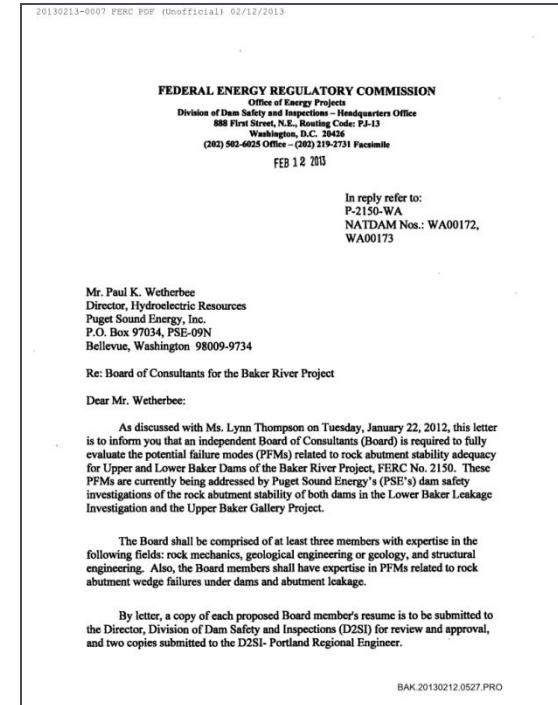
# 2013 Board of Consultants Formed

## BOC Scoped to Assess

- Previous abutment and leakage investigations
- Proposed abutment explorations
- Credible rock abutment wedges that could cause dam failure
- Surveillance and monitoring required
- Dam safety related to grouting

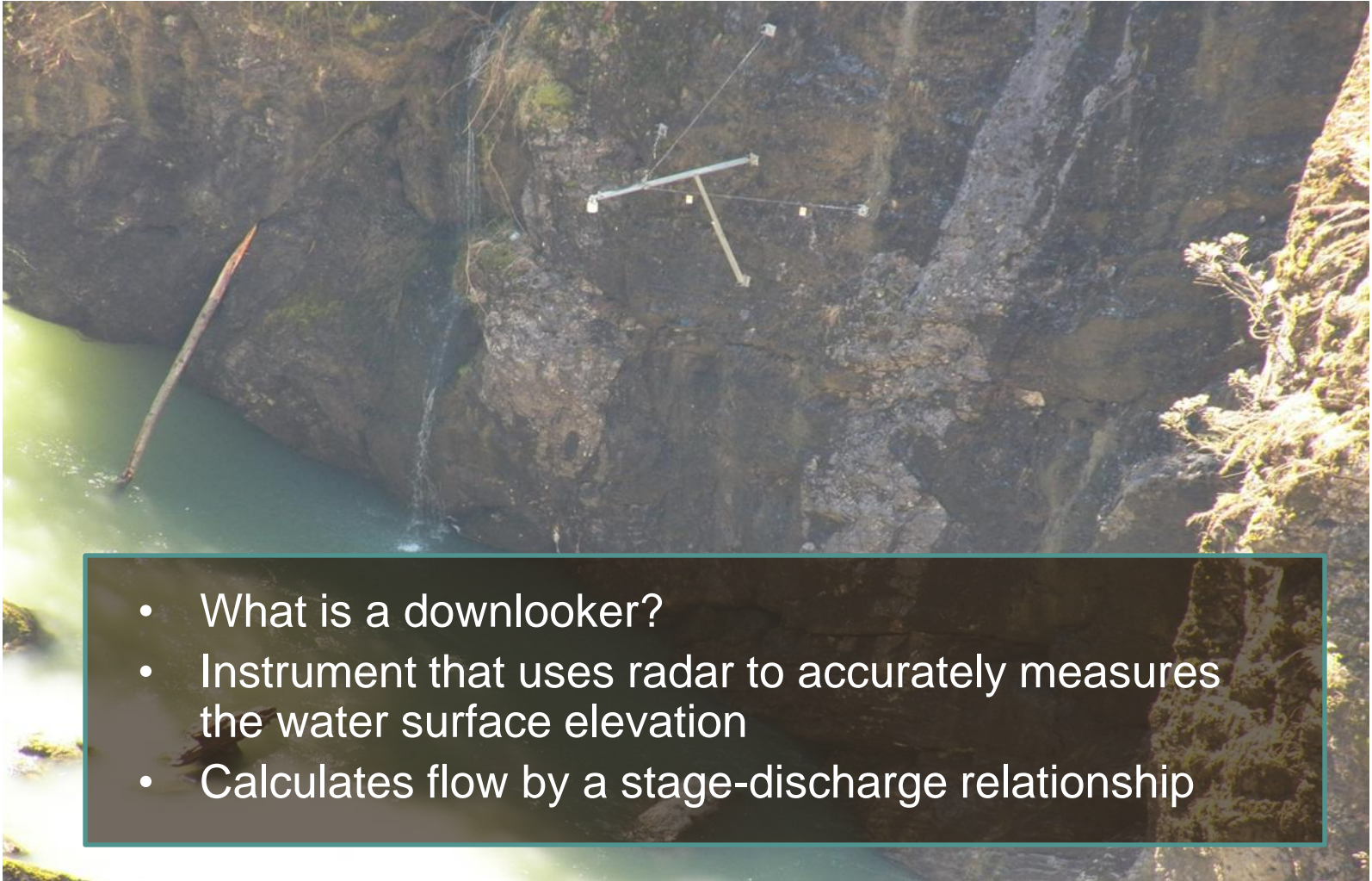
## BOC meeting No. 1 Recommendations

- Accurately measure leakage from the dam
- Improve on leakage investigations methods
- Use all available recent and historic information to create a geologic model of the dam to define leakage pathways and review abutment stability.





# Downlooker Instrumentation



- What is a downlooker?
- Instrument that uses radar to accurately measures the water surface elevation
- Calculates flow by a stage-discharge relationship

# Downlooker Instrumentation



- Installed in November 2012 to support the early detection warning system and monitor leakage.
- Re-purposed in 2014 to primarily monitor leakage
- Measures leakage rate to within 3 or 4% of actual flow
- Rate is dependent upon pool elevation with max rate of 138cfs



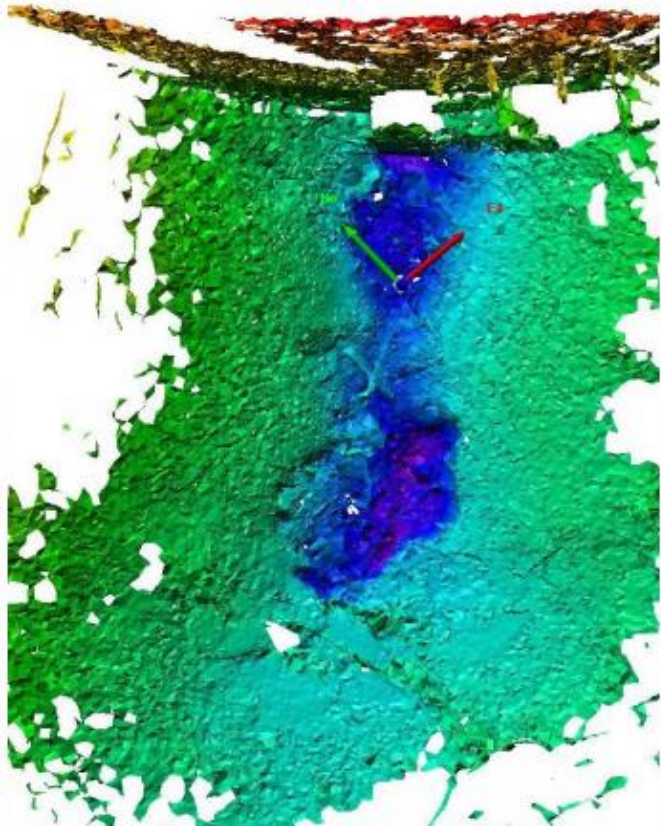
# 2014 Leakage Investigations

---



- Toe Dive
- High Resolution Multibeam Scanning Sonar
- ROV Investigation
- Dye Study & Water Sampling
- Geological Mapping in Forebay & Downstream Channel
- Terrestrial Laser Scanning

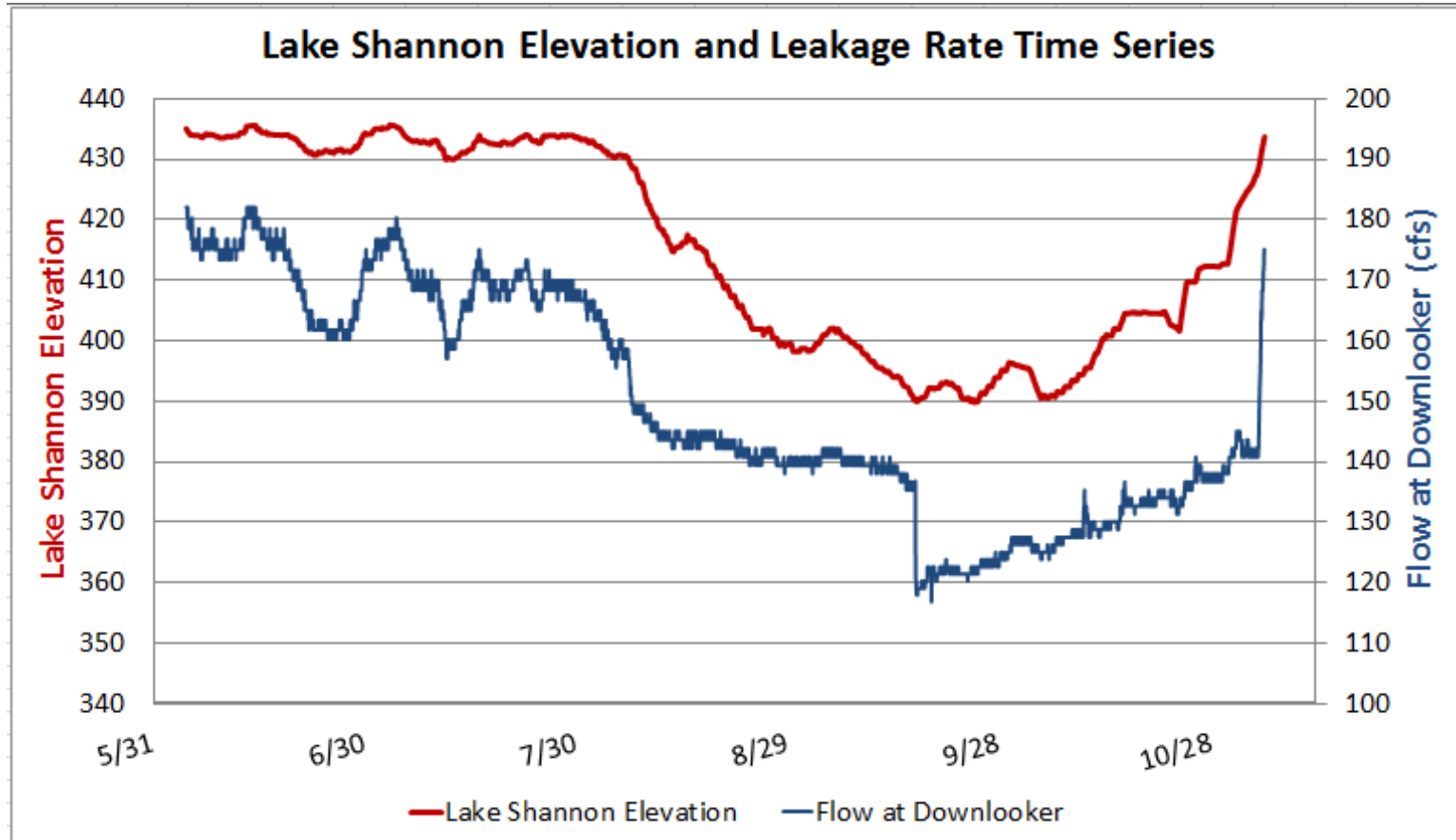
# 2014 Leakage Investigations



- ROV video reconnaissance of forebay depression
- High resolution Blue-Vu scanning of depression



# 2014 Leakage Investigations



## Downlooker data during 2014 Leakage Investigations

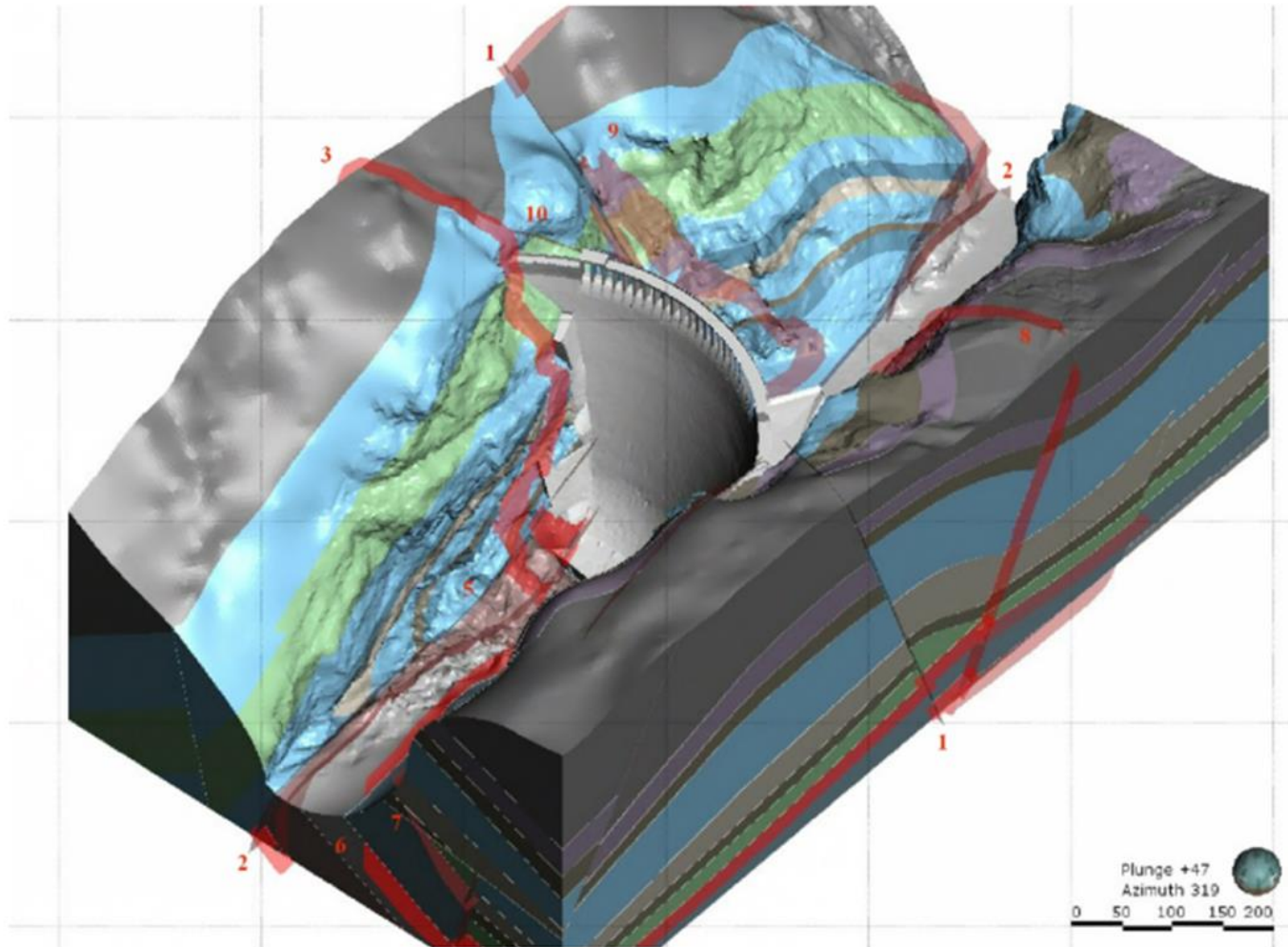
# 2014 Leakage Investigations

Dye testing better defined leakage pathways



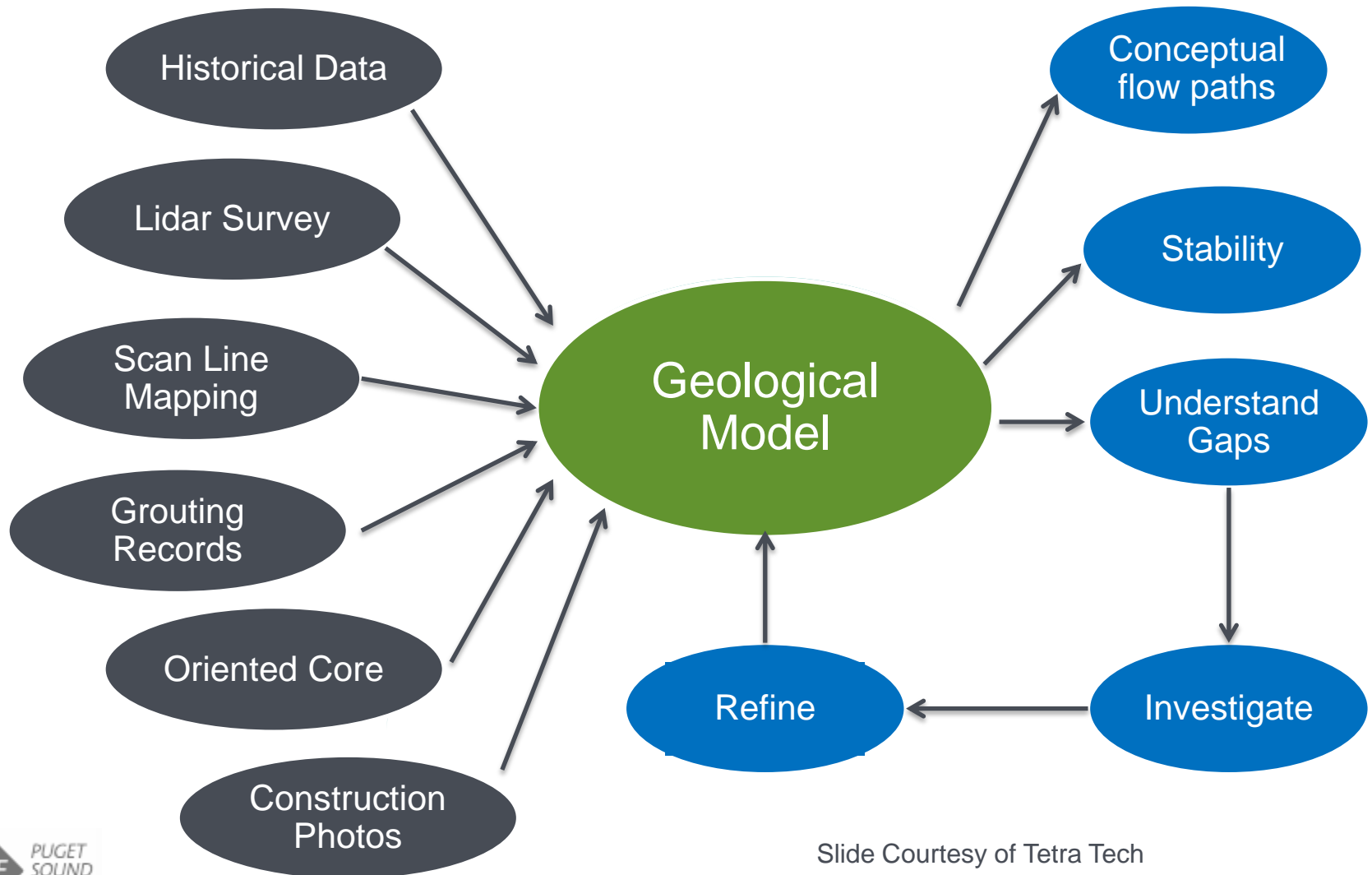


# Geologic Model



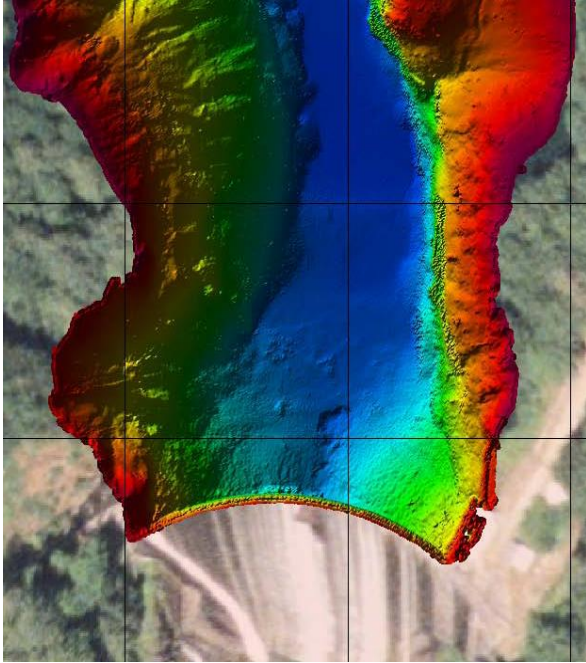
# Geologic Model

---

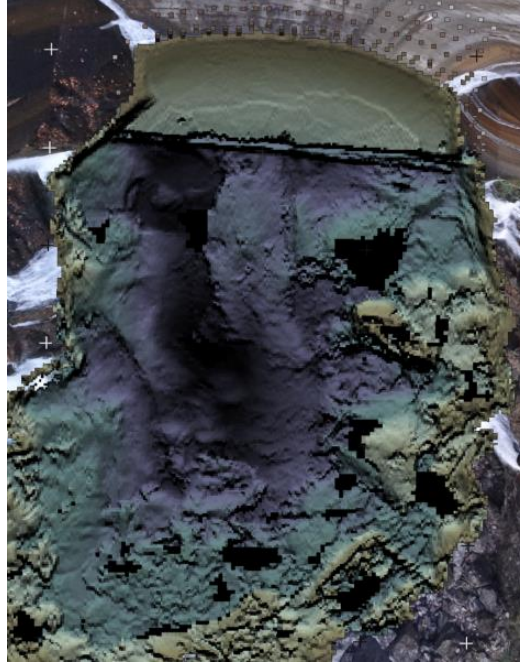




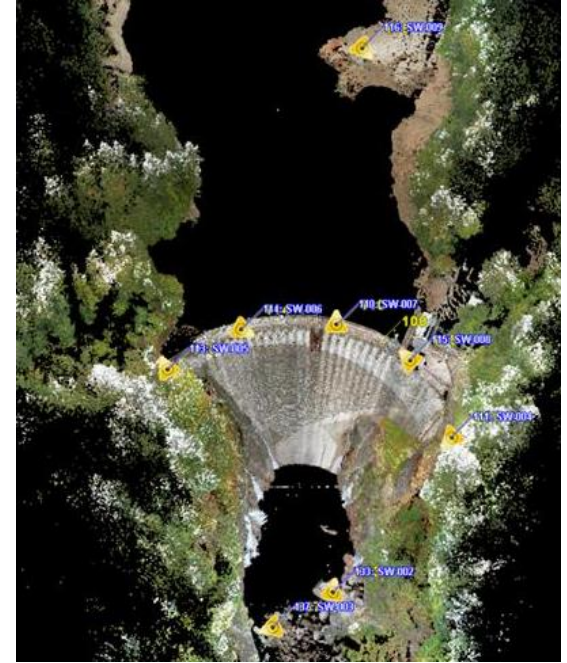
# Geologic Model – 3D CAD Model



Forebay bathymetry



Plunge pool bathymetry



Terrestrial laser survey

- Combine existing mapping
- Create high resolution mapping model of entire dam site
- Becomes the foundation for the geologic model



# Geologic Model – 3D CAD Model

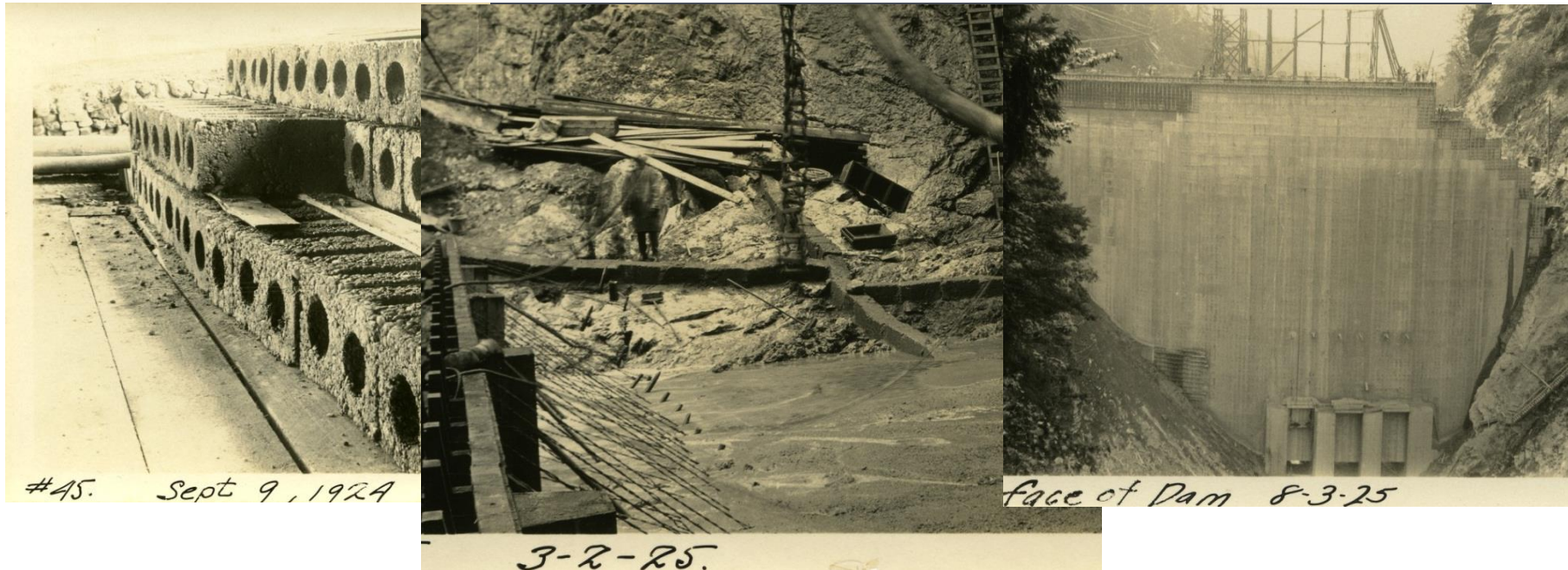




# Geologic Model – 3D CAD Model



# Geologic Model – Historical Data



## Examination of Historical Photographs



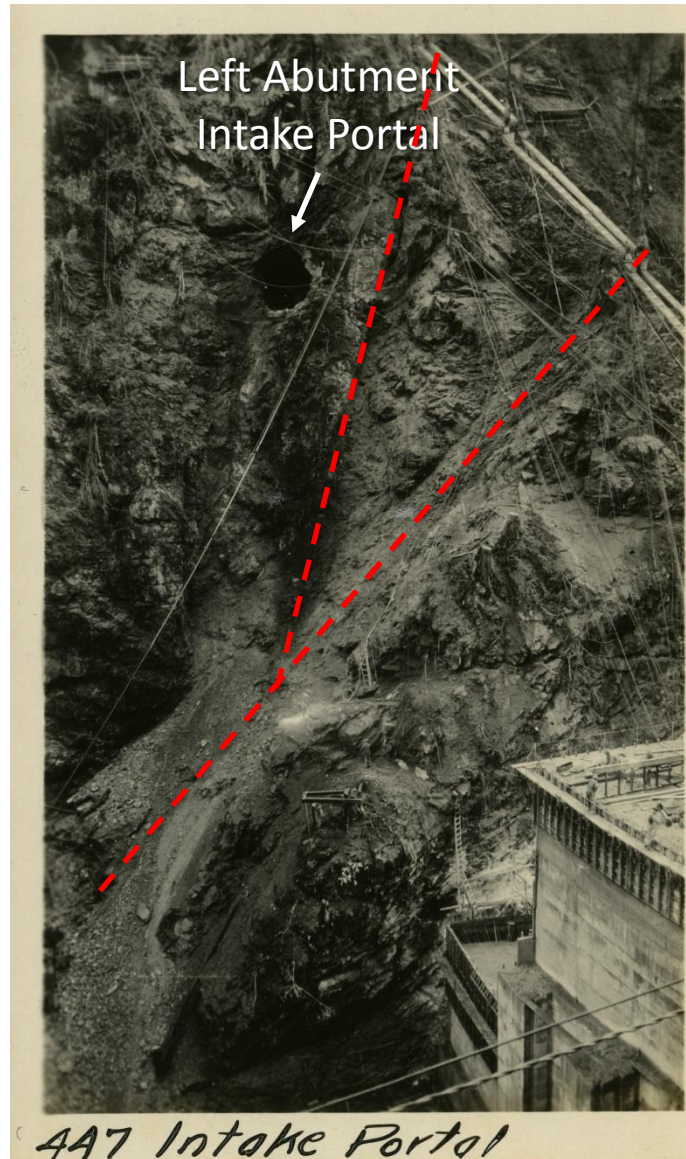
# Geologic Model – Historical Data

---



Shale seem in limestone abutments

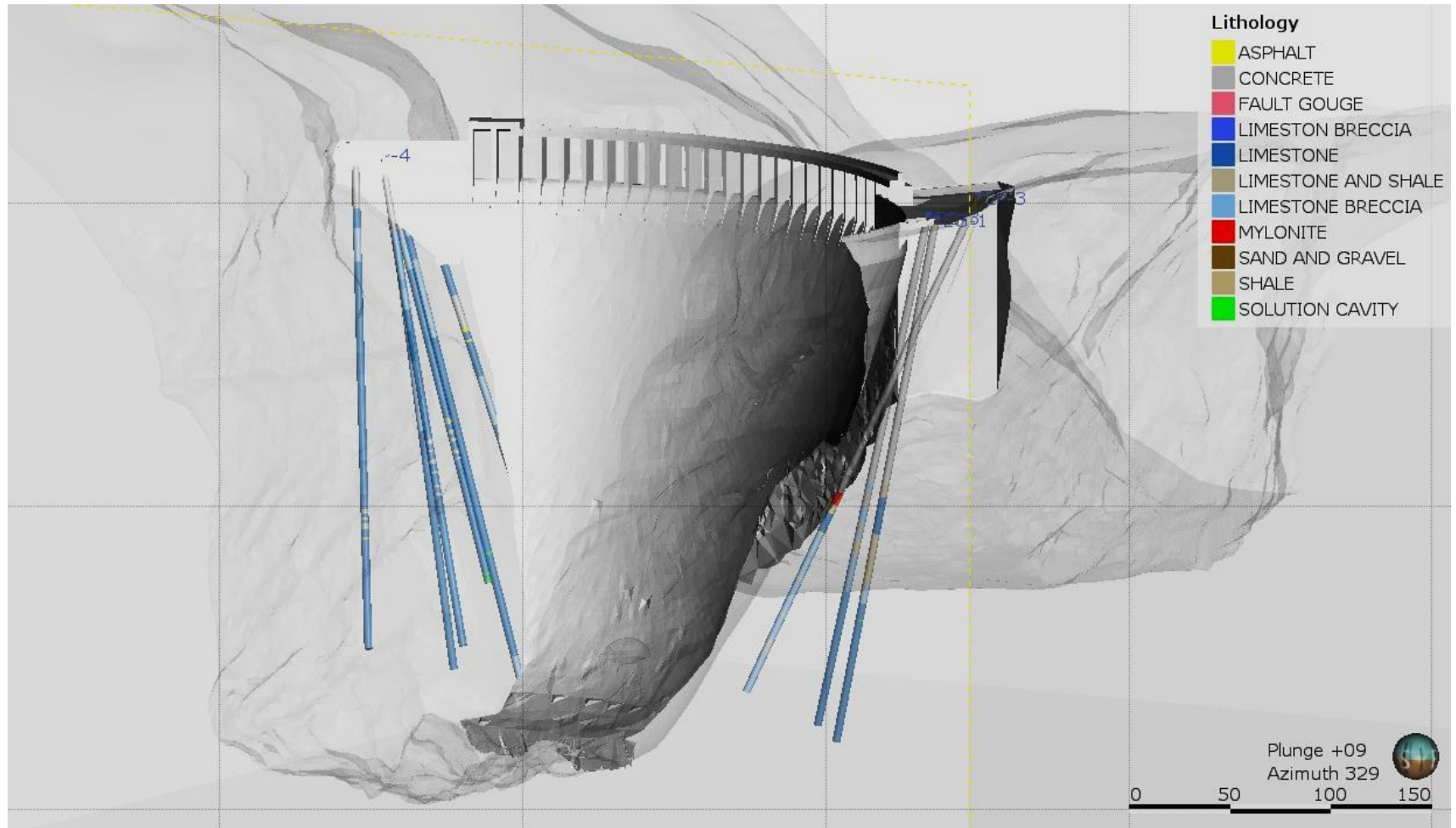
# Geologic Model – Historical Data



**Possible  
Fault Zones**



# Geologic Model – Historical Data



Re-logging of existing cores

# Geologic Model – Historical Data

---



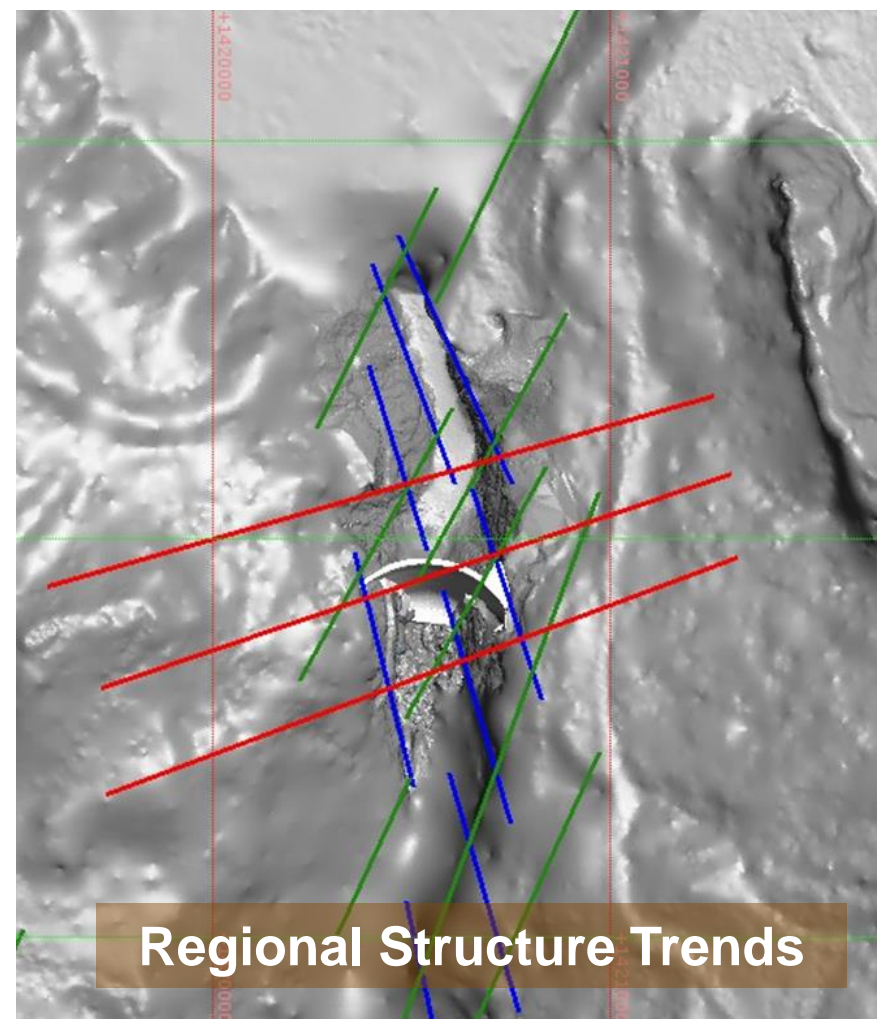
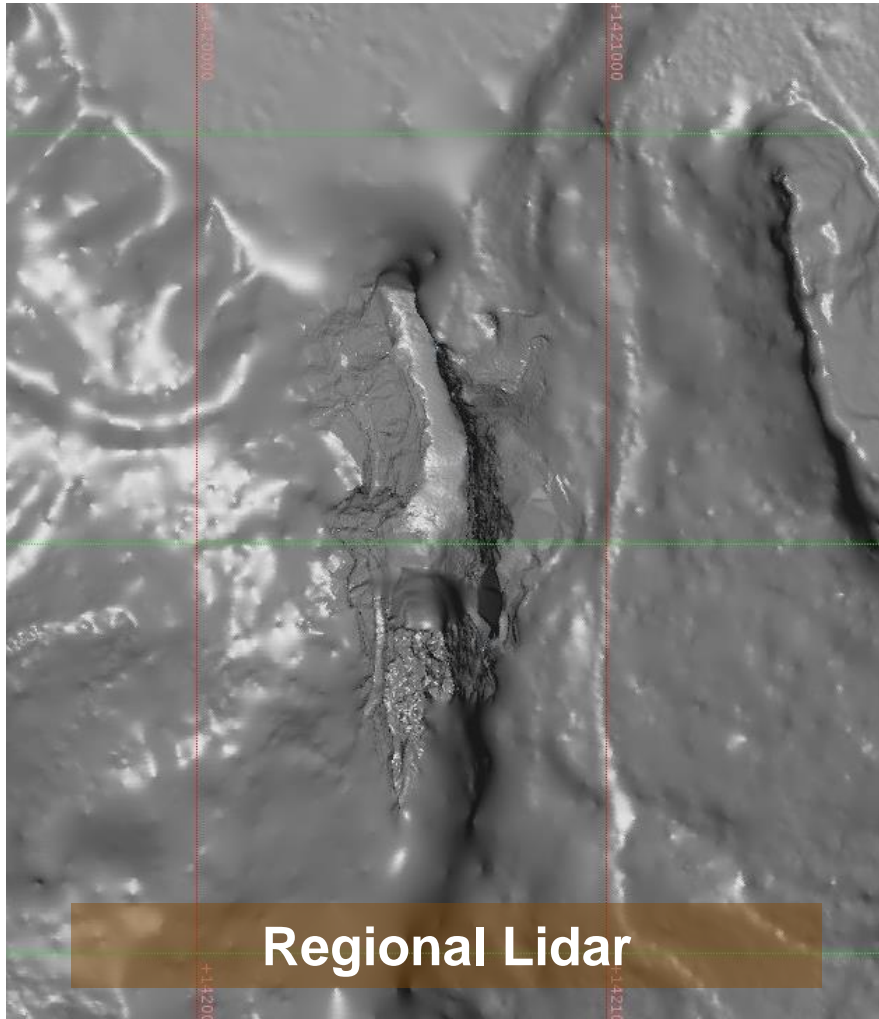


# Geologic Model – Historical Data



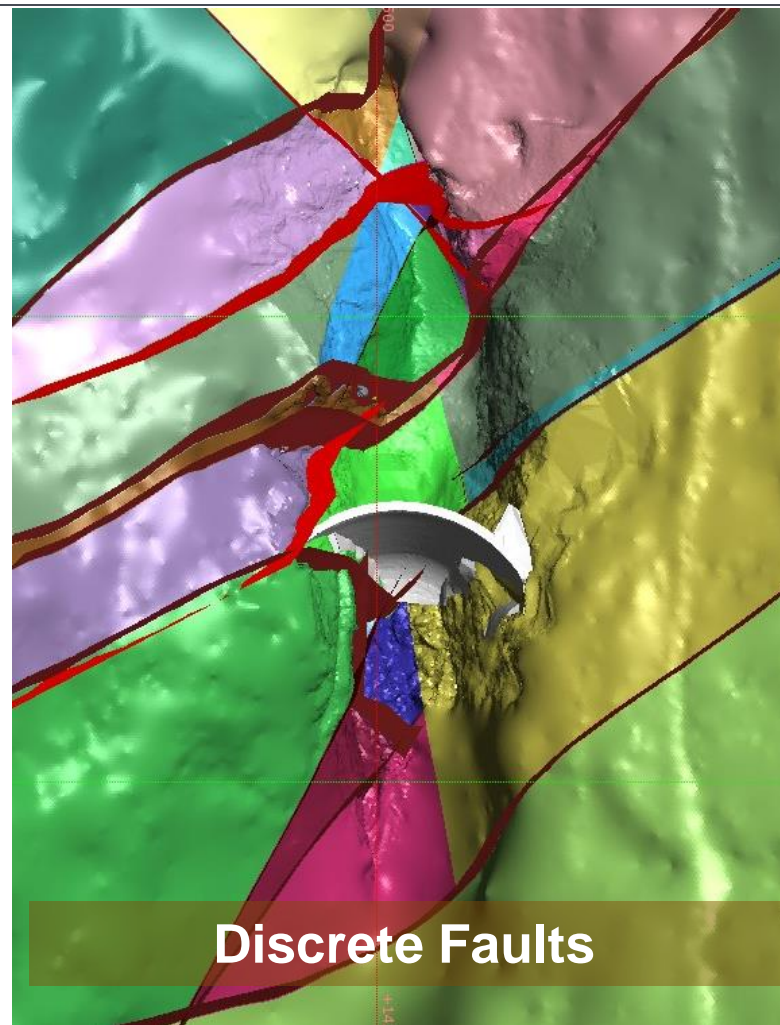
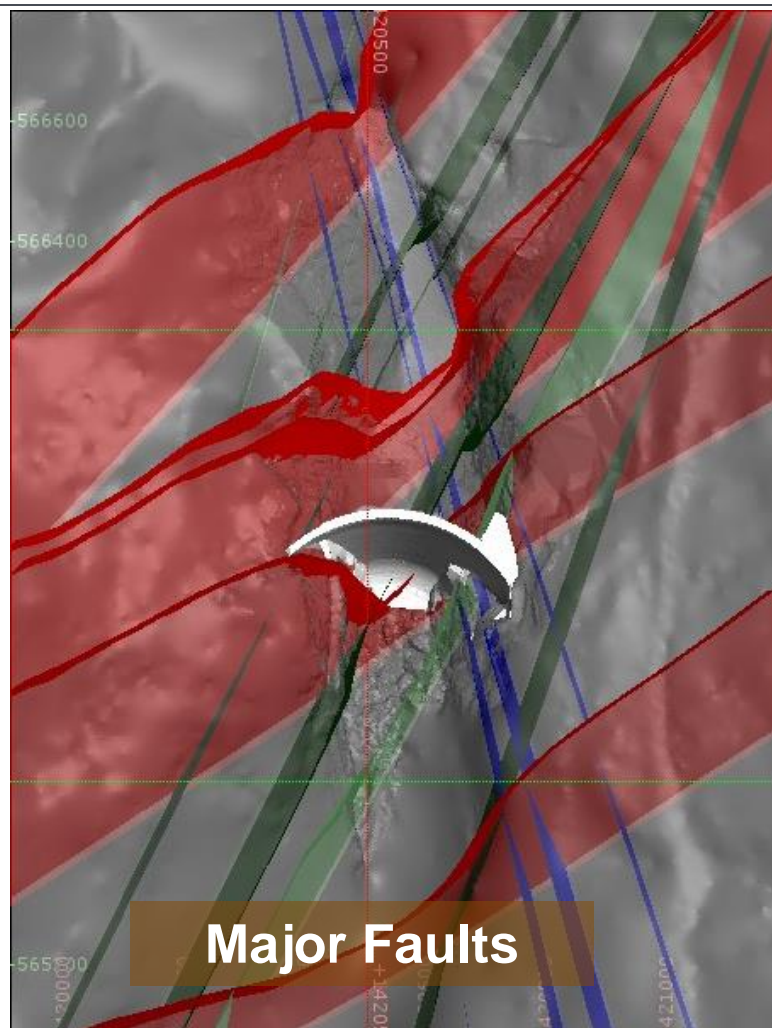
- Previous scan lines
- Previous geologic reports & mapping

# Geologic Model – Regional Lidar

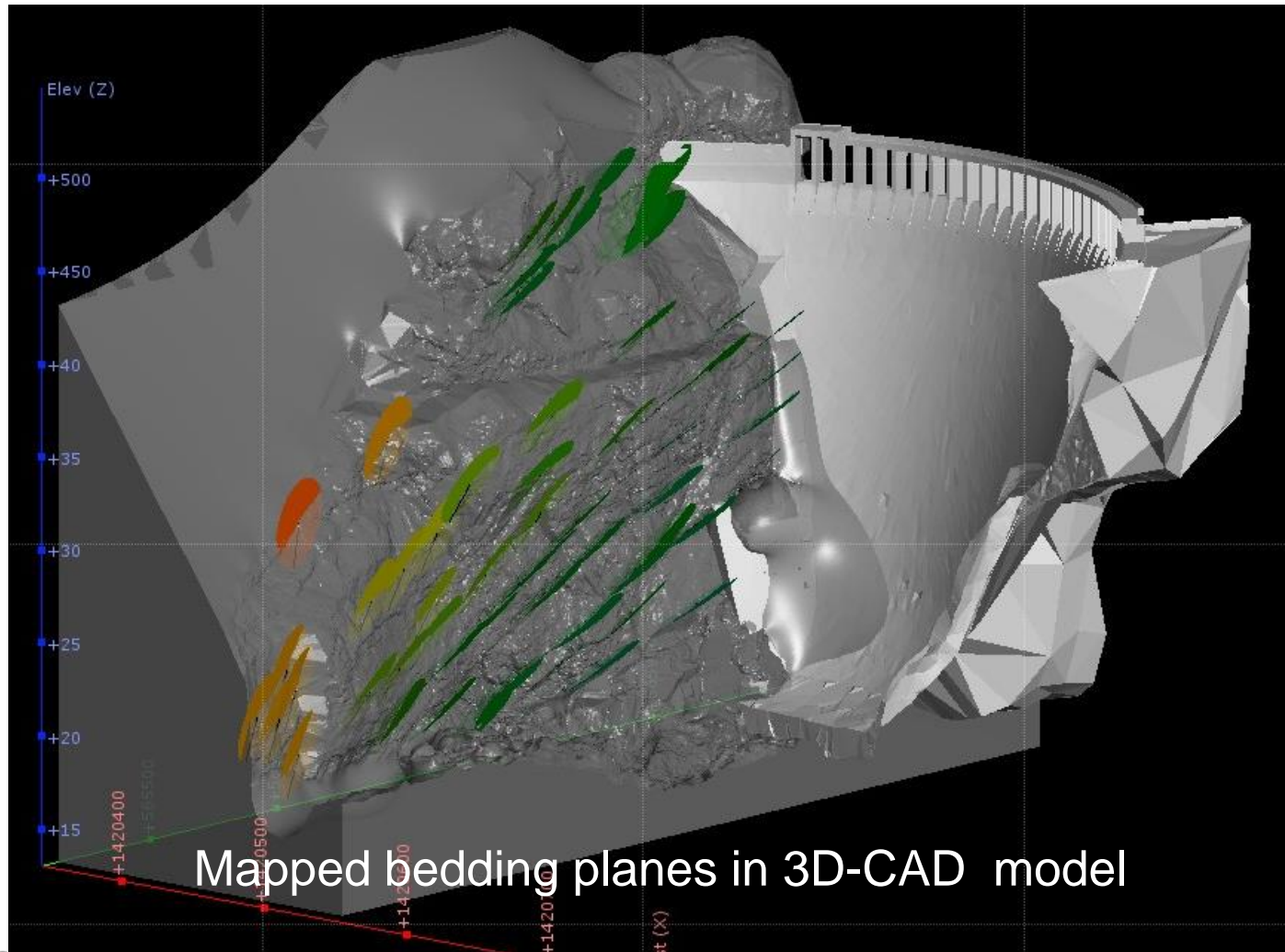




# Geologic Model – Regional Lidar



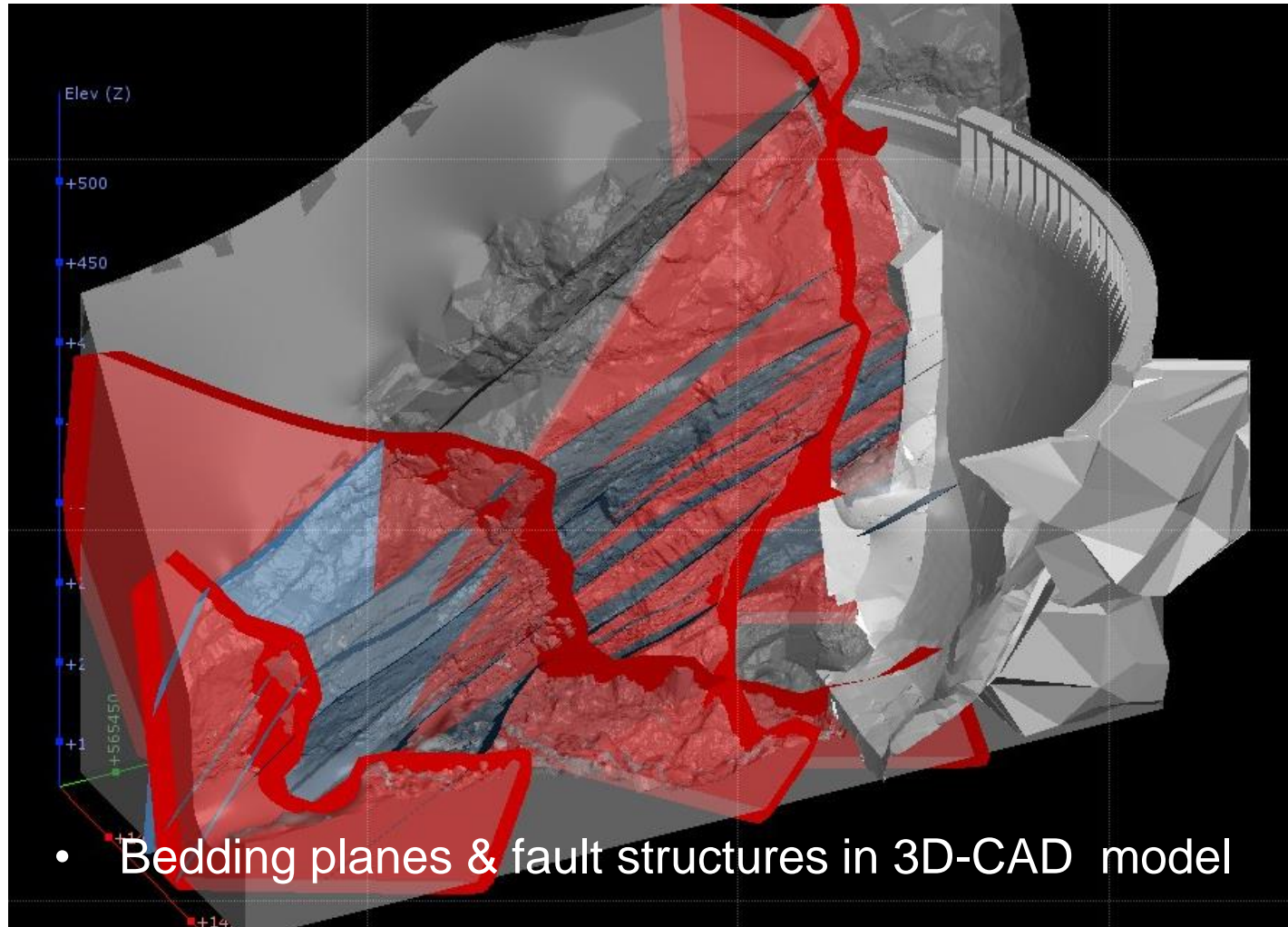
# Geologic Model – West Abutment Mapping



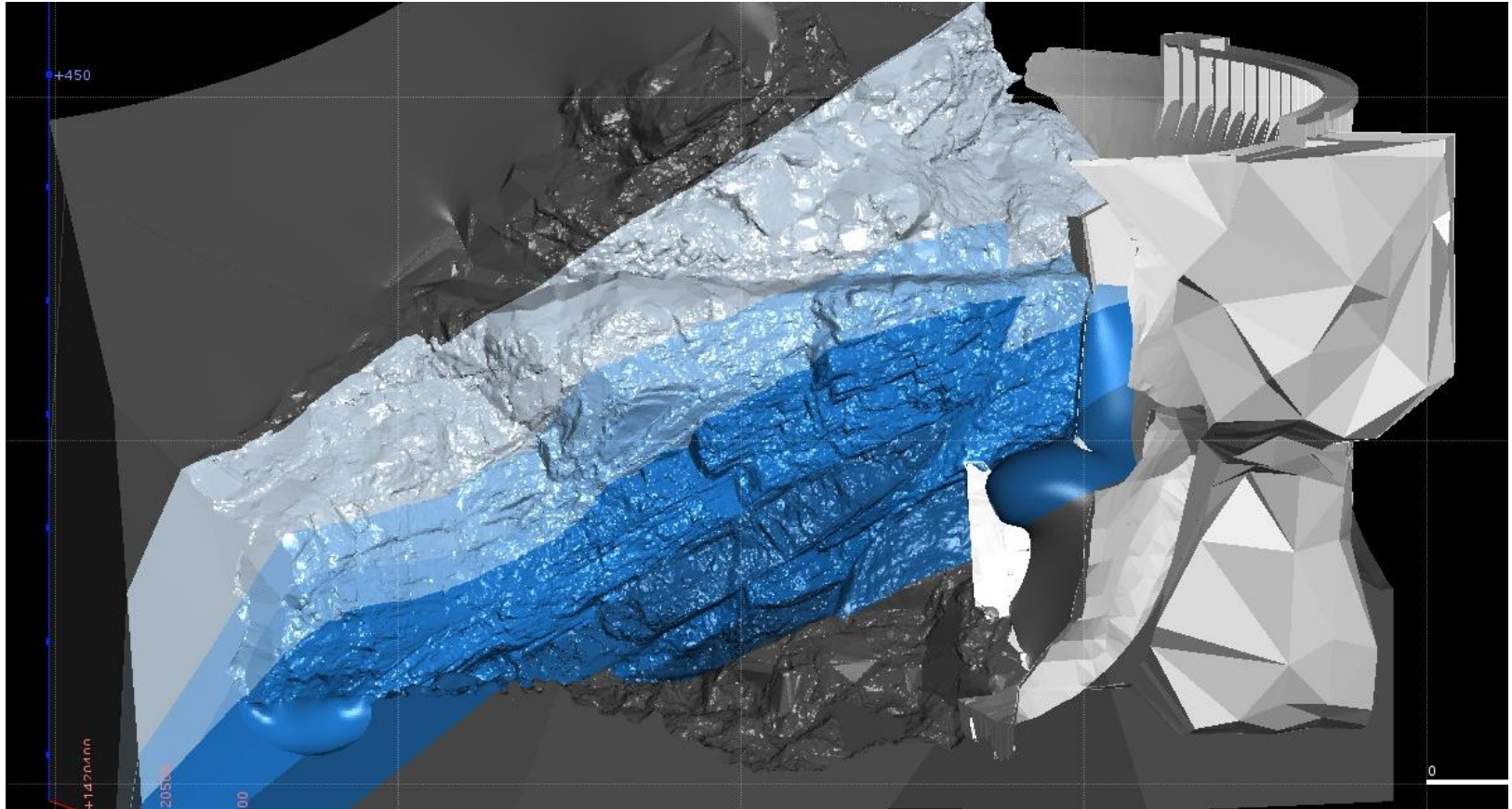
Mapped bedding planes in 3D-CAD model



# Geologic Model- 3D CAD mapping



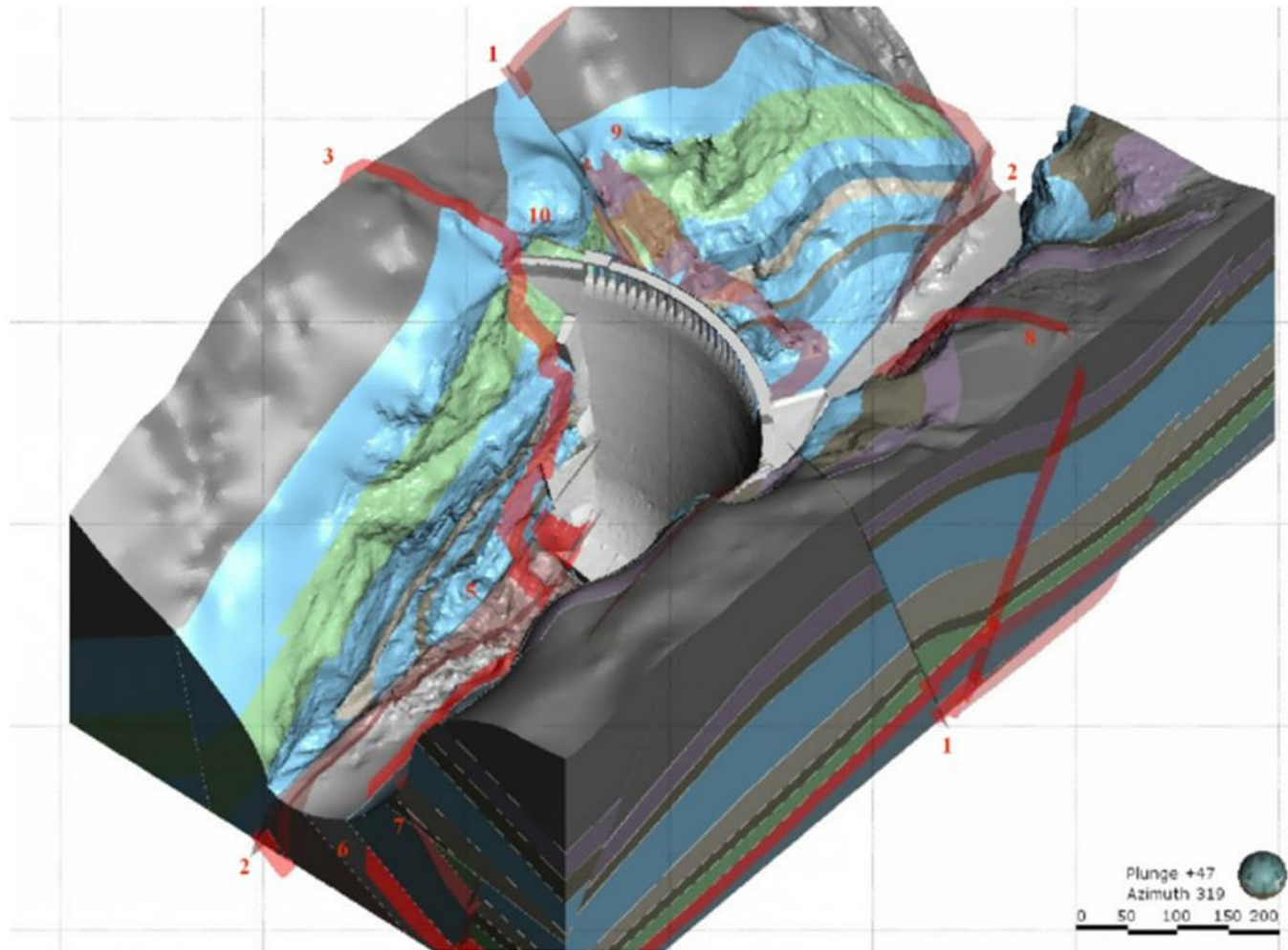
# Geologic Model- 3D CAD mapping



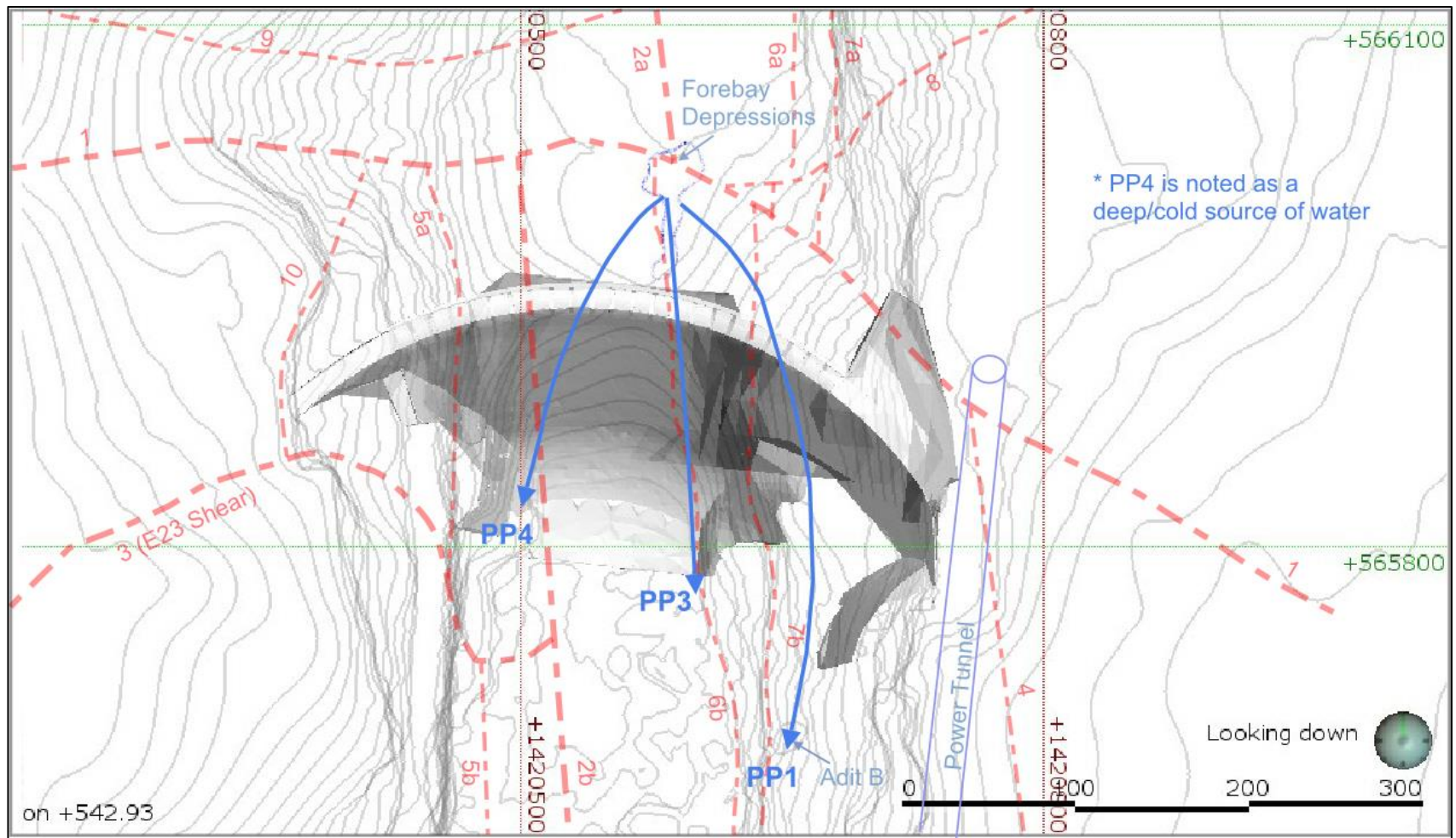
Limestone units modelled



# Geologic Model

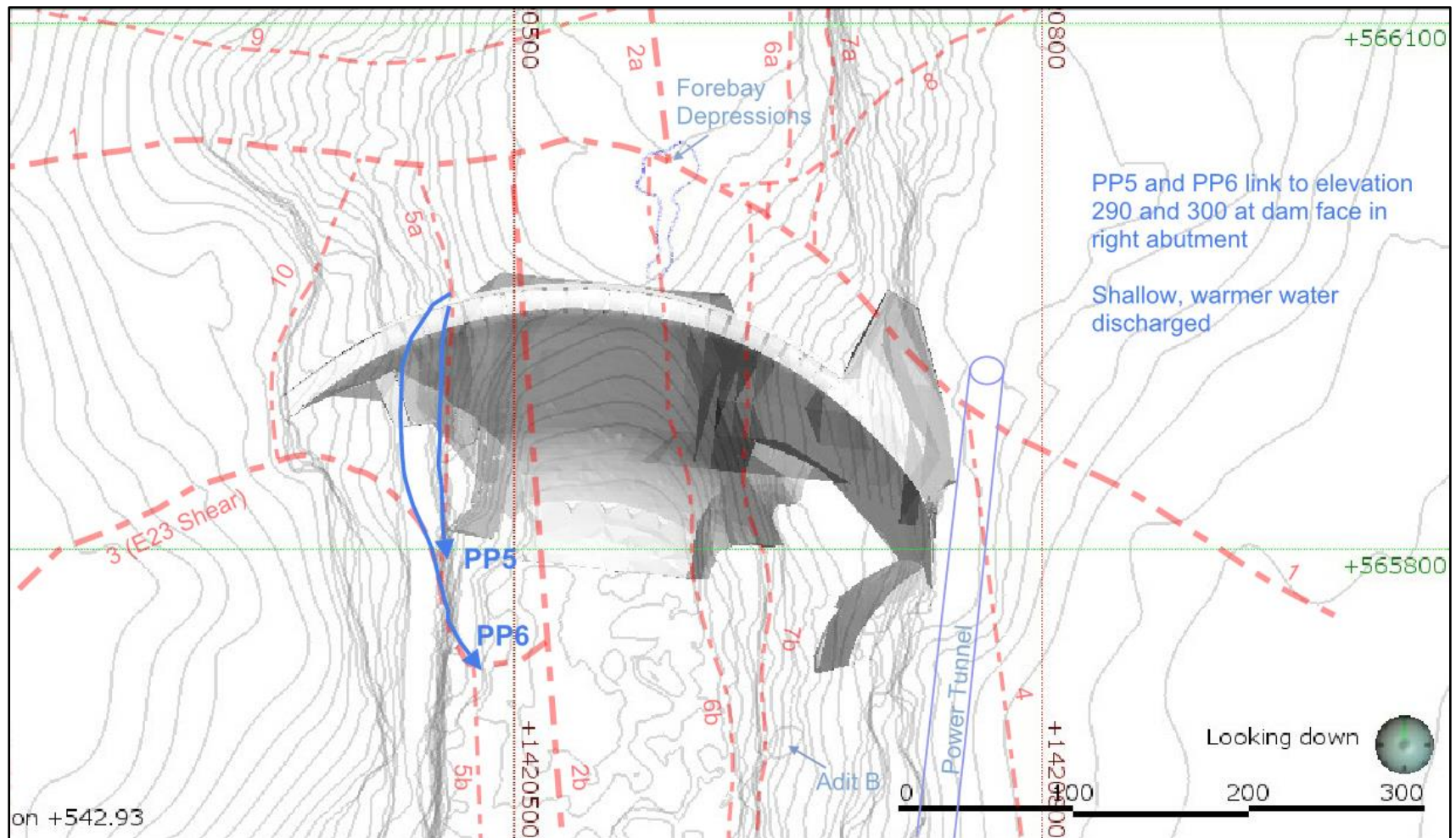


# Relate Leakage to Geology

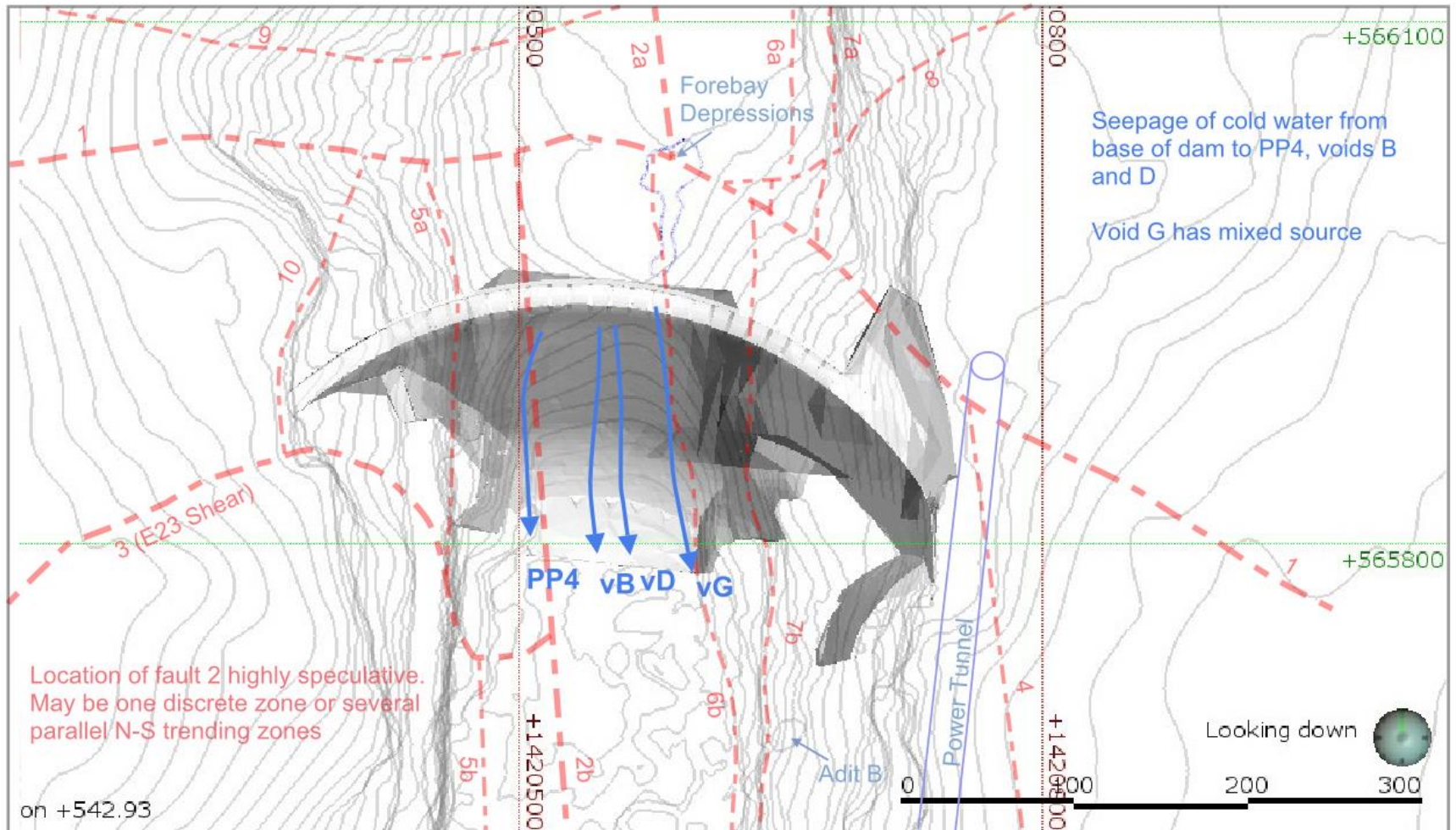




# Relate Leakage to Geology

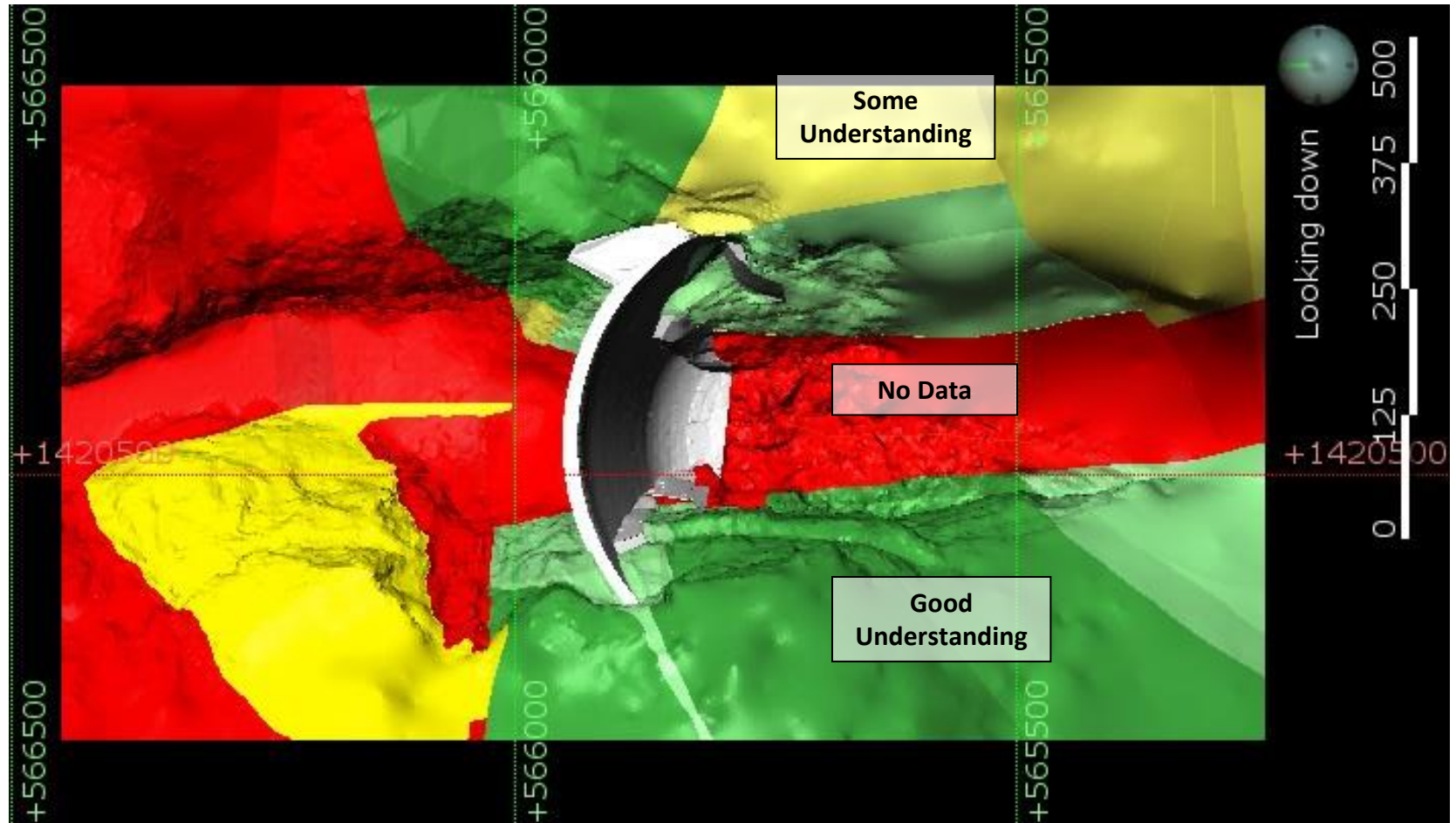


# Relate Leakage to Geology

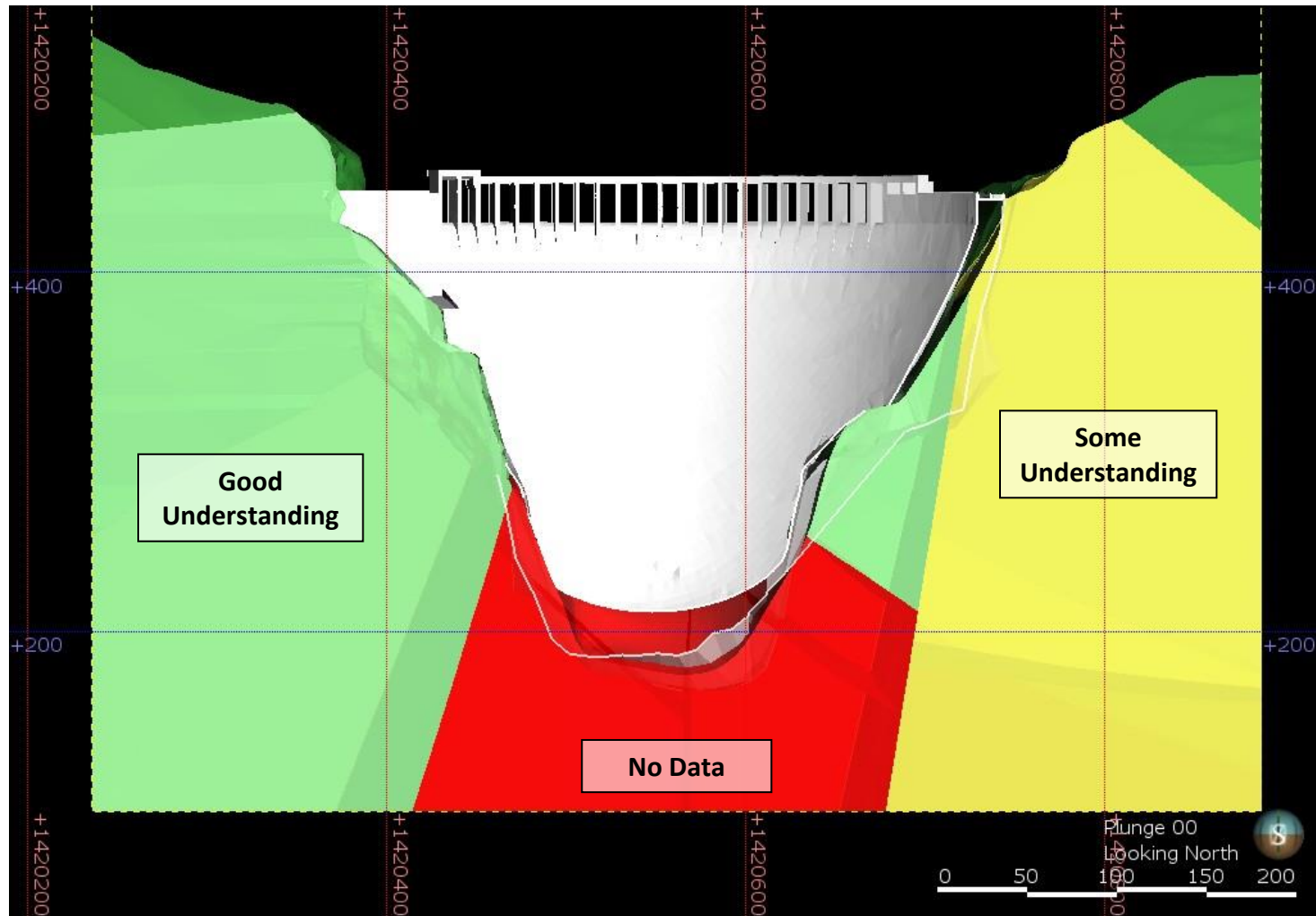




# Geologic Model – Gap Assessment

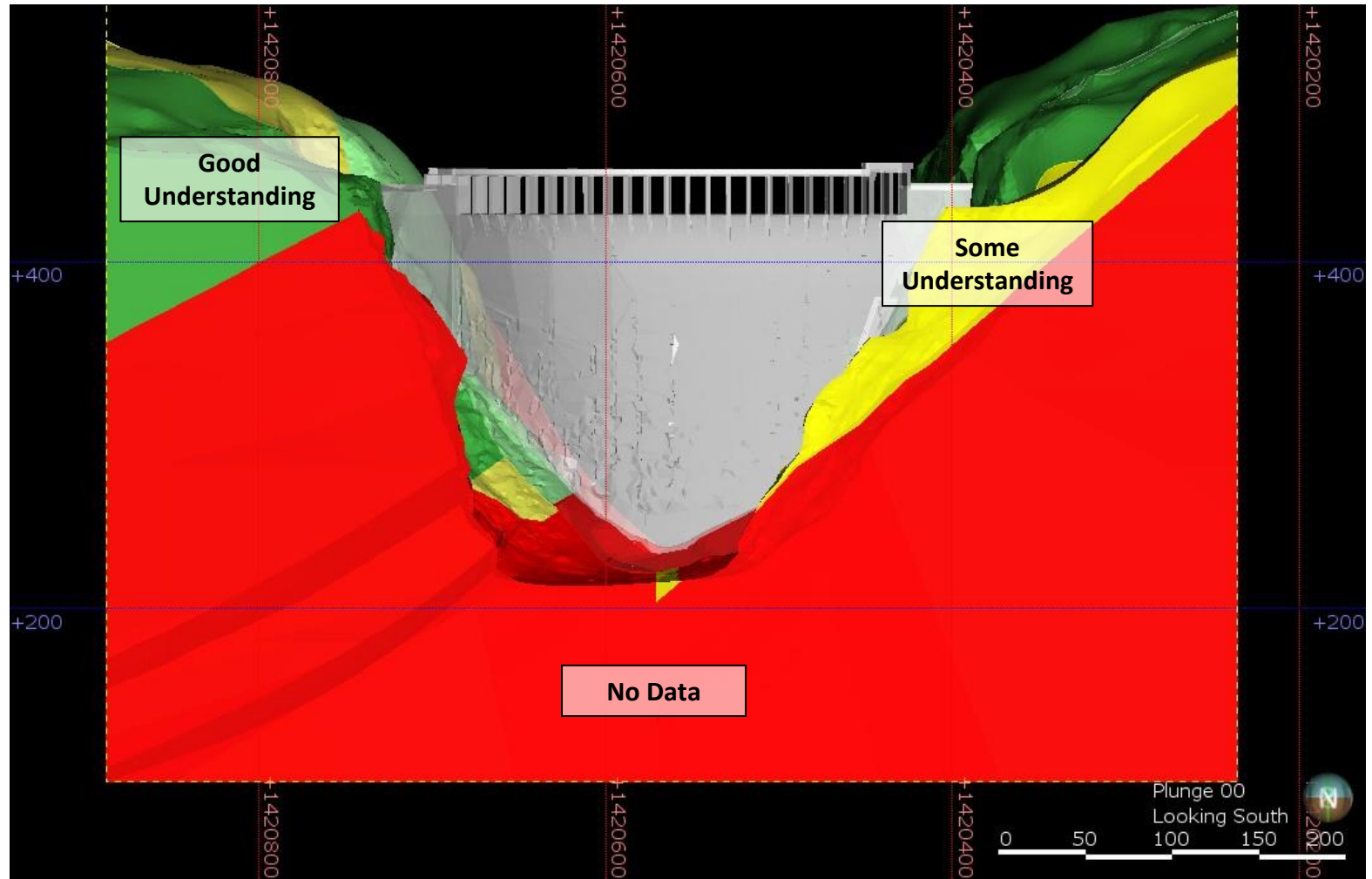


# Geologic Model – Gap Assessment



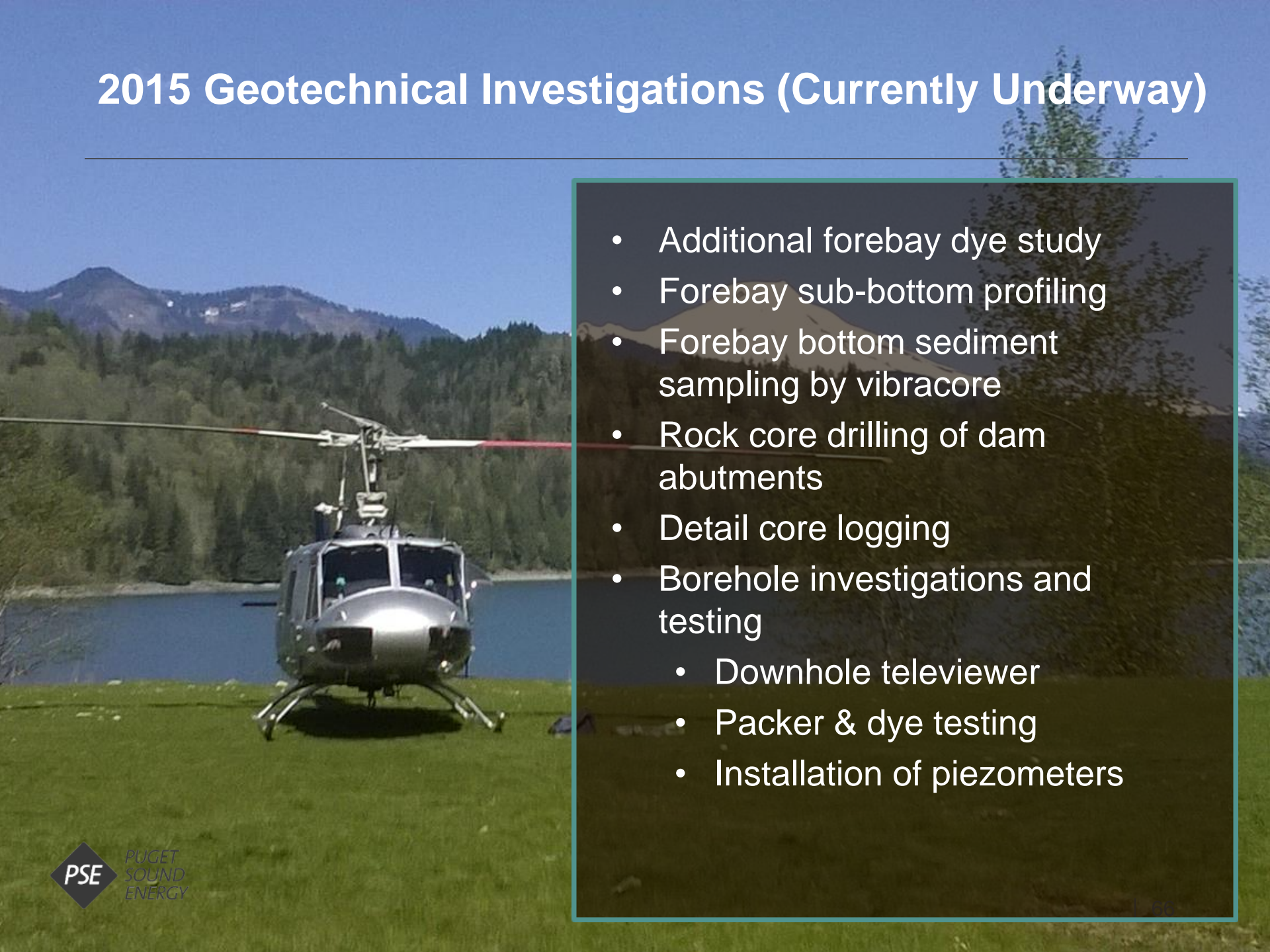


# Geologic Model – Gap Assessment



# 2015 Geotechnical Investigations (Currently Underway)

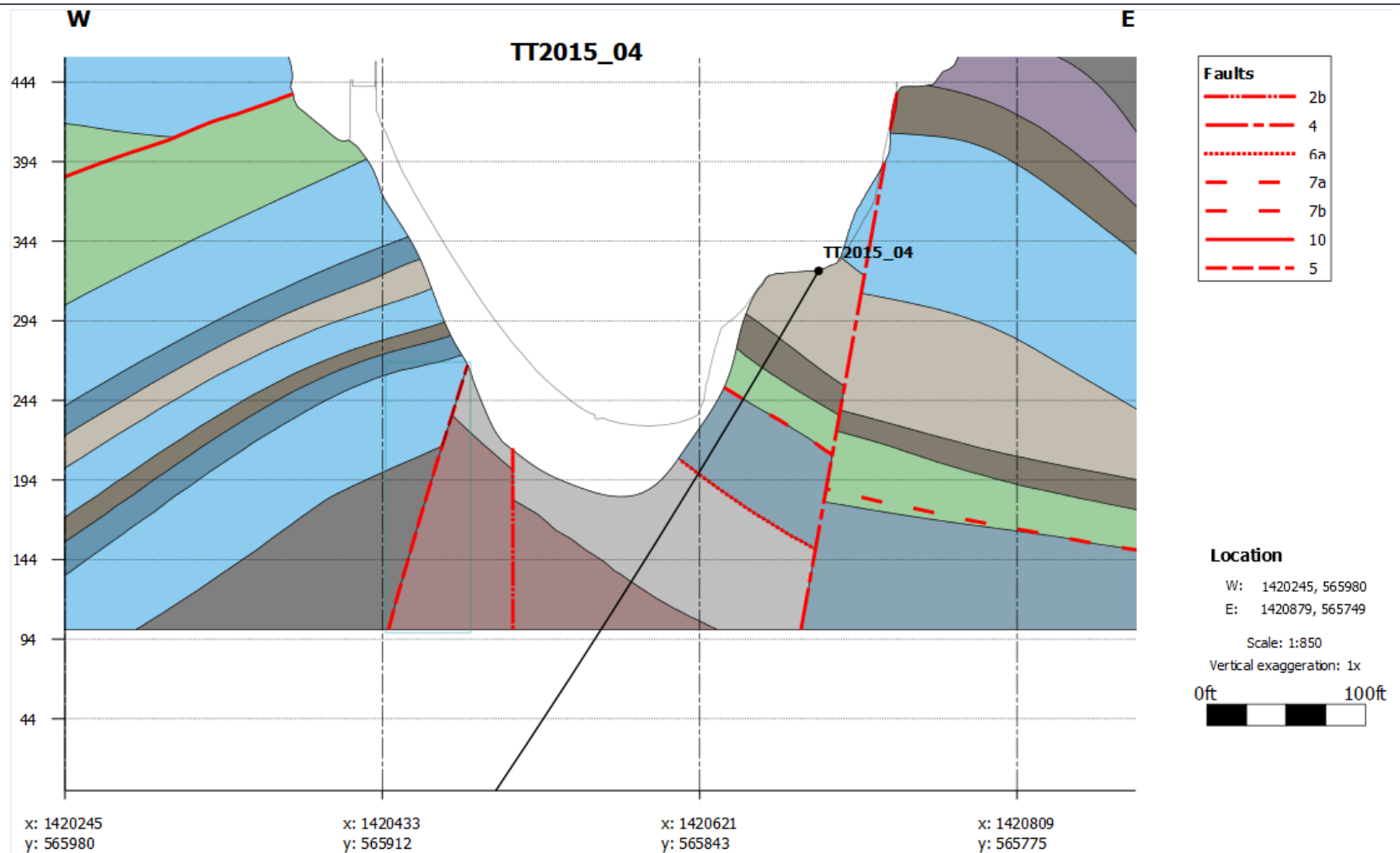
---

- 
- A silver helicopter is parked on a green grassy field. In the background, there is a calm lake and a range of mountains under a clear blue sky. The helicopter's rotors are visible, and it is facing towards the viewer.
- Additional forebay dye study
  - Forebay sub-bottom profiling
  - Forebay bottom sediment sampling by vibracore
  - Rock core drilling of dam abutments
  - Detail core logging
  - Borehole investigations and testing
    - Downhole televiewer
    - Packer & dye testing
    - Installation of piezometers





# 2015 Geotechnical Investigations





# 2015 Geotechnical Investigations



**Staging Plunge Pool Dye Sensing Equipment**

# 2015 Geotechnical Investigations

---



**Helicopter Flying Equipment Into Plunge Pool**



# 2015 Geotechnical Investigations

---



**Plunge pool dye sensors installed**

# 2015 Geotechnical Investigations

---



**Conducting vibracore sampling of forebay bottom**

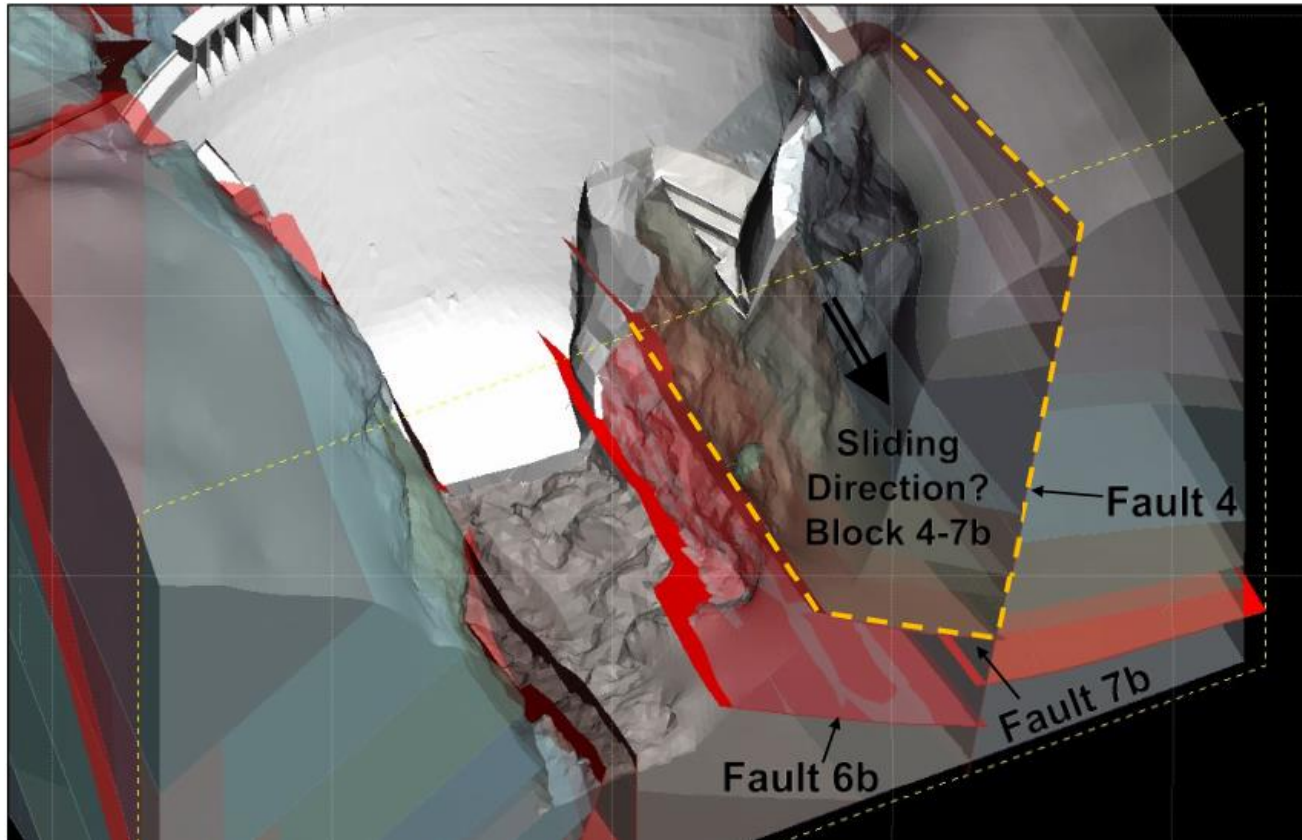


# 2015 Geotechnical Investigations



**Core Drill Site on Right Abutment**

# 2015 Geotechnical Investigations

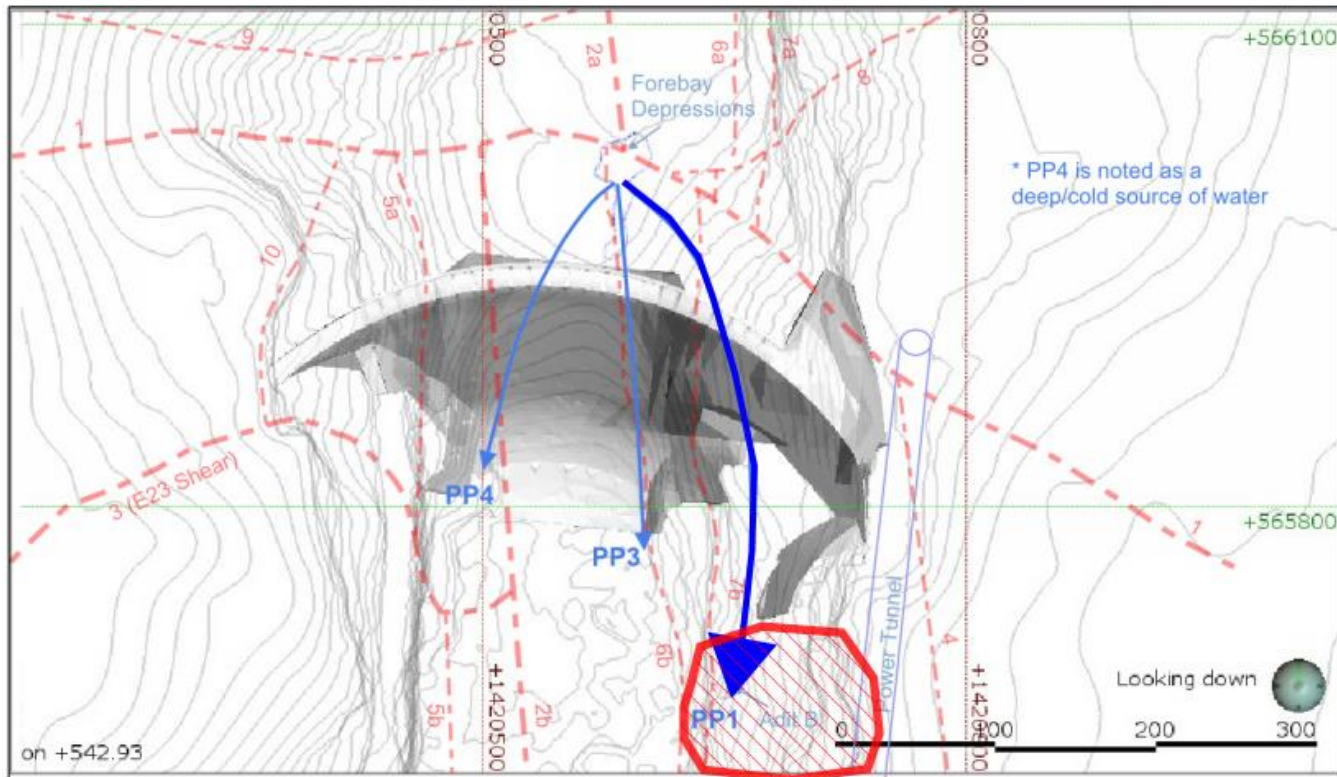


## Next Steps Following 2015 Geotechnical Investigations

- Evaluate potential failure modes related to rock abutment stability



## 2015 Geotechnical Investigations



## Next Steps Following 2015 Geotechnical Investigations

- Determine if the leakage plays a part in potential failure modes
- Identify mitigation if required to reduce potential for dam failure.
- Assess the need to grout the dam



# Lower Baker Dam Leakage Investigations

For their work on the Lower Baker Dam and for the material in this presentation I would like to thank the following firms and individuals:

Tetra Tech, Shannon & Wilson, (McMillan)/Jacobs Assoc., Golder Assoc, Geo-Engineers, Pacific Geomatics, Ballard Diving, Crux Subsurface, Mehdi Shahala, Josh Giles, John Chandler, The Baker Project, and anyone I missed!



**Thank You**